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NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2015

1:00 P.M.

**New Orleans Historical District Landmarks Commission
Removal of Confederate Monument Public Hearing**

Committee Members:

Jesse LeBlanc, II, Chairman

Paul Harang, At Large

Calvin Alexander, Jr., Holy Cross

Kathryn Fayard, At Large

John Deveney, Marigny

Ed deMontluzin, St. Charles Avenue

Greg Hackenberg, Vice Chair, Irish Channel

Jeanne Nathan, Esplanade Ridge

Tony French, Bywater

Renee Lapeyolerie, Treme

Jennifer Greene, At Large

Heather Szapary, Algiers

Dwight Norton, At Large

Anne Redd, Garden District

Reported by: Susan A. Zielie, RMR, FCRR

13:47:06	1	NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
13:47:06	2	AUGUST 8, 2013
13:47:06	3	1:00 P.M.
14:01:50	4	CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Call to order.
14:01:51	5	Roll call.
14:01:53	6	THE MODERATOR: Andrew P. Sanchez.
14:01:55	7	COMMISSION MEMBER SANCHEZ: Here.
14:01:57	8	THE MODERATOR: Paul Harang, present.
14:01:58	9	Heather Szapary, present.
14:02:01	10	Renee Lapeyroleri, present.
14:02:01	11	Ed deMontluzin, present.
14:02:04	12	Jason LeBlanc, present.
14:02:04	13	Greg Hackenberg, present.
14:02:04	14	Calvin Alexander, present.
14:02:06	15	Dwight Norton, present.
14:02:12	16	John Deveney, present.
14:02:14	17	Tony French, present.
14:02:18	18	Jennifer Greene, present.
14:02:18	19	Katy Fayard, absent.
14:02:18	20	Anne Redd, absent.
14:02:18	21	Jeanne Nathan, absent.
14:02:21	22	We have 12 members respond. We have a
14:02:26	23	quorum.
14:02:26	24	CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you. We have
14:02:31	25	quorum.

14:02:31 1 Welcome to the New Orleans Historic District
14:02:33 2 Landmark Commission meeting of August 13, 2015. We'd
14:02:39 3 like to thank you for attending and appreciate your
14:02:42 4 support and cooperation with HDLC.

14:02:46 5 Before we begin, I'd like to welcome two new
14:02:50 6 commissioners. We have Commissioner Jennifer Greene and
14:02:52 7 Commissioner Pete Sanchez. They are both at large
14:02:55 8 members. Commissioner Green is at that end,
14:02:55 9 Commissioner Sanchez is at this end.

14:02:56 10 We'd like to welcome you aboard.

14:02:59 11 (APPLAUSE)

14:03:05 12 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: As everybody's aware,
14:03:06 13 today's agenda is not our normal agenda, so I'll explain
14:03:11 14 to everybody the rules that we're operating under today.

14:03:18 15 We will devote the first two hours of this
14:03:21 16 meeting to the Confederate monuments. At 3 p.m., we
14:03:25 17 plan on adjourning for ten minutes and then continuing
14:03:27 18 with the regular agenda of the HDLC.

14:03:32 19 The monument presentation will be as
14:03:33 20 follows: We will have a presentation by the
14:03:35 21 administration on the monuments. And then we will have
14:03:37 22 a presentation -- we will have 35 minutes of public
14:03:53 23 comment of those in favor of removing the monuments and
14:03:54 24 then we'll have 35 minutes of those opposed of removing
14:04:00 25 the monuments. And then that will be followed by

14:04:07 1 discussion of the HDLC commission and a vote of the
14:04:10 2 commission. The commission will vote on each on
14:04:15 3 monument separately, and we're acting purely in an
14:04:17 4 advisory role to the city council.

14:04:17 5 Each speaker is limited in their speaking
14:04:20 6 time. Because of the sheer number of speakers, and we
14:04:23 7 have many more people in the auditorium that are for
14:04:28 8 maintaining the monuments than are for removing the
14:04:31 9 monuments --

14:04:32 10 (APPLAUSE, CHEERING, CROWD OUTBURST)

14:04:48 11 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: I will get to my next
14:04:51 12 comment.

14:04:51 13 As you can see, there's many people in the
14:04:53 14 room. If you can't behave, you will have to leave the
14:04:56 15 room --

14:04:56 16 (CROWD OUTBURST)

14:05:02 17 THE MODERATOR: Please do not speak until
14:05:04 18 the chairman has recognized you, and please hold your
14:05:08 19 applause until after the speakers. We are trying to
14:05:11 20 give everyone time to speak. Thank you.

14:05:13 21 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: The speaking time limit
14:05:15 22 is normally two minutes per speaker. And since there's
14:05:18 23 35 minutes per side, that would limit it to roughly 17
14:05:23 24 speakers per side.

14:05:24 25 As you see, in the auditorium, there's many

14:05:27 1 more people than that. So, in the interest of having as
14:05:31 2 many people heard as possible, since the number of
14:05:40 3 people that are here that are opposed to removal, we'll
14:05:44 4 give you one minute to be succinct in your remarks. The
14:05:46 5 reason for doing that is to give you as much as time to
14:05:49 6 speak, and we're trying to get to as many people as
14:05:49 7 possible. So, when you make your remarks, get right to
14:05:52 8 the point and try to keep them as concise as possible as
14:06:02 9 a courtesy to your fellow citizens of New Orleans. This
14:06:05 10 way, as many people as possible can speak.

14:06:08 11 In addition, we have a clock up here that's
14:06:10 12 the official clock. I'll start it after you state your
14:06:16 13 name and address, which you must state. Again, our
14:06:21 14 meeting is being televised, and you must state your name
14:06:16 15 and address for the record. Once your time is up, I
14:06:26 16 will ring the bell. That means your time is up.

14:06:28 17 There will be no applause, no shouting or
14:06:30 18 other public demonstrations. All speakers must be
14:06:32 19 recognized by the Chair, that's me. And you must speak
14:06:35 20 at the microphone.

14:06:41 21 Ladies and gentlemen, I know this is a very
14:06:42 22 heated issue, and to maintain some level of decorum and
14:06:46 23 to give all of your fellow citizens a chance and time to
14:06:49 24 participate, it's important that we all act courteous to
14:06:52 25 each other and show some just general good manners. So

14:06:58 1 I know that there's passionate people on both sides of
14:07:02 2 the issue, but please try and refrain from making
14:07:05 3 comments. Once you get to the mic, you can make your
14:07:07 4 comments.

14:07:07 5 We do have security in the room. If anybody
14:07:12 6 gets out of hand, I will ask security to remove them
14:07:15 7 from the room.

14:07:20 8 This meeting lasts approximately two hours.
14:07:24 9 Once we adjourn the section on the monuments, the Human
14:07:30 10 Relations Committee is following at 6:00 o'clock, and is
14:07:33 11 meeting in the same room. This is the only item on
14:07:35 12 their agenda. So, for those who cannot be heard in
14:07:41 13 front of the Landmarks Commission, they can stay until
14:07:46 14 6:00 o'clock and be heard by the Human Relations
14:07:48 15 Committee. That meeting is also televised and reported.
14:07:52 16 Thank you.

14:08:00 17 So we'll start -- we're going to start our
14:08:02 18 special agenda. I'm going to ask for a report by the
14:08:06 19 staff.

14:08:09 20 CITY SPOKESPERSON: Thank you.

14:08:10 21 Today, the New Orleans Historic Landmark
14:08:12 22 Commission will take public comment and provide a
14:08:13 23 recommendation to the city council on whether four
14:08:17 24 monuments, the Robert E. Lee statue, the Jefferson Davis
14:08:22 25 statue and the PT Beauregard statue and the Battle of

14:08:26 1 Liberty Place monument, should be removed from its
14:08:29 2 outdoor display and relocated. Importantly, the
14:08:32 3 committee will make the recommendation based solely on
14:08:35 4 the criteria set forth in Ordinance 146-611, which are
14:08:40 5 set forth in detail below. The HDLC guidelines
14:08:45 6 typically used by the commission on regular agenda items
14:08:49 7 are not applicable in making this recommendation.

14:08:52 8 On July 9, 2015, the New Orleans City
14:08:57 9 Council passed Motion M-15-310 requesting the HDLC,
14:09:02 10 amongst other city agencies, review and provide
14:09:04 11 recommendations regarding the above-listed monuments in
14:09:07 12 accordance with the criteria set forth in Article 7,
14:09:11 13 Section 146-611 of the city code: Public Monuments -
14:09:16 14 Removal From Public Property.

14:09:18 15 According to the ordinance, monuments may be
14:09:21 16 removed from public display and relocated when they are
14:09:25 17 deemed a nuisance. A monument may be deemed a nuisance
14:09:30 18 upon meeting the following three criteria:

14:09:32 19 Number one: The thing honors, praises or
14:09:35 20 fosters ideologies which are in conflict with the
14:09:39 21 requirements of equal protection for citizens as
14:09:42 22 provided by the constitution and the laws of the United
14:09:46 23 States, the state or the laws of the city, and gives
14:09:49 24 honor or praise to those who participated in the killing
14:09:52 25 of public employees of the city or state, or suggests

14:09:57 1 the supremacy of one ethnic, religious or racial group
14:10:02 2 over any other, or gives honor or praise to any violent
14:10:06 3 actions taken wrongfully against citizens of the city to
14:10:10 4 promote ethnic, religious or racial supremacy of any
14:10:16 5 group over another;

14:10:18 6 Number two: Has been or may become the site
14:10:22 7 of violent demonstrations or other activities that may
14:10:25 8 threaten life or property;

14:10:27 9 And, three: Constitutes an expense for
14:10:31 10 maintenance or the provision of security on a recurring
14:10:34 11 basis that is unjustified when weighed against the
14:10:38 12 historical or architectural significance, if any, of the
14:10:41 13 thing and/or the merits of or reasons for outdoor
14:10:47 14 display of the thing.

14:10:49 15 The following pages of this report provide a
14:10:51 16 brief background on the history and status of each of
14:10:55 17 the four monuments at issue.

14:11:00 18 The Robert E. Lee monument. The location is
14:11:04 19 at Lee Circle, at the intersection of St. Charles
14:11:08 20 Avenue, was erected in 1884. The statue was designed by
14:11:12 21 Alexander Doyle, and the column by John Roy. The
14:11:15 22 inscription says: Robert E. Lee, 1807 to 1870,
14:11:20 23 Commander-in-Chief, Confederate States of America, 1861
14:11:23 24 to '65. It was placed by Julia Jackson, Chapter No. 4,
14:11:29 25 Children of the Confederacy. The Robert E. Lee monument

14:11:32 1 was commissioned by the Robert E. Lee Monumental
14:11:36 2 Association of New Orleans, a group of citizens that was
14:11:37 3 formed in 1870 to raise money to erect the monument to
14:11:43 4 commemorate Robert E. Lee following his death. The
14:11:46 5 monument was dedicated on February 23, 1884, and depicts
14:11:50 6 Lee high upon a pedestal, facing north, so as to not
14:11:54 7 turn his back on his enemies. On that date, the Daily
14:11:57 8 Picayune stated:

14:11:58 9 We cannot ignore the fact that the secession
14:12:02 10 has been stigmatized as treason and that the purest and
14:12:06 11 bravest men in the South have been denounced as guilty
14:12:10 12 of a shameful crime ... by every appliance of literature
14:12:13 13 and art, we must show to all coming ages that with us,
14:12:17 14 at least, there dwells no sense of guilt.

14:12:21 15 The Robert E. Lee monument was placed on the
14:12:24 16 National Register of Historic Places in March of 1991.
14:12:31 17 The designation report cites the significance of the
14:12:32 18 monument as a physical manifestation of the beliefs and
14:12:35 19 attitudes held by many Southerners during the late 19th
14:12:39 20 Century and early 20th Century. In general, the
14:12:41 21 monument represents what is known as the Cult of the
14:12:45 22 Lost Cause. More particularly, it stands for a central
14:12:48 23 aspect of the cult, the deification of General Robert E.
14:12:55 24 Lee.

14:12:55 25 Protesters have demonstrated against the

14:12:58 1 killings of African-American citizens by police officers
14:13:01 2 in recent years at Lee Circle. The site has emerged as
14:13:01 3 a location for demonstrations both for and against the
14:13:07 4 removal of the monument. According to a Times Picayune
14:13:08 5 article, over \$200,000 in private and public funds have
14:13:12 6 been spent on repairs for the maintenance of the
14:13:15 7 monument.

14:13:25 8 The General GT Beauregard statue, at the
14:13:25 9 intersection of Esplanade Avenue and Wisner Boulevard at
14:13:28 10 the entrance to City Park. The monument was erected in
14:13:30 11 1913 to 1915, designed by Alexander Doyle. The
14:13:35 12 inscription says: GT Beauregard, 1818 to 1883. General
14:13:42 13 of the Confederate States of America, 1861 to 1865.

14:13:46 14 The effort to erect a statute to commemorate
14:13:49 15 General Beauregard began in the hours after his death in
14:13:53 16 1893 at a meeting in the United Veterans of the
14:13:57 17 Confederacy. The group formed an association dedicated
14:13:58 18 to raising funds for a monument to the Louisiana native
14:14:01 19 and confederate general. The association commissioned
14:14:04 20 artist Alexander Doyle, the sculptor of the Robert E.
14:14:08 21 Lee monument, to design a bronze equestrian statue in
14:14:12 22 his Confederate uniform. Site was donated in 1907 and
14:14:18 23 dedicated in 1915.

14:14:19 24 The General Beauregard statue was placed on
14:14:22 25 the National Register of History Places in February of

14:14:25 1 1999. Like the Robert E. Lee monument, the designation
14:14:30 2 report cites the significance of the Beauregard statue
14:14:32 3 as a physical manifestation of the Cult of the Lost
14:14:35 4 Cause.

14:14:35 5 The General Beauregard memorial has been
14:14:39 6 maintained with private and public funds. The statue
14:14:43 7 was recently vandalized with spray paint. If it
14:14:47 8 remains, it may be the target of vandalism. The city
14:14:51 9 has borne and will continue to bear the costs of
14:14:54 10 cleaning for such acts.

14:14:54 11 The Jefferson Davis monument. The location
14:15:08 12 is Jefferson Davis Parkway at Canal Street. The date
14:15:08 13 erected was 1911. The artist of the statue was Edward
14:15:11 14 Virginius Valentine and the base was designed by Lorenzi
14:15:16 15 Orsini. The inscription says:

14:15:17 16 Jefferson Davis, President of the Federal
14:15:20 17 States of America, 1861 to 1865. Soldier - Statesman -
14:15:27 18 Patriot. The South, seeking a leader for her highest
14:15:29 19 office, chose him from among her fittest men, a profound
14:15:33 20 student of the Constitution, a majestic orator; in
14:15:37 21 character, firm; in judgment, sound; in purpose,
14:15:40 22 resolute. His name is enshrined in the hearts of people
14:15:44 23 for whom he suffered and his deeds are forever wedded to
14:15:49 24 immortality.

14:15:50 25 Jefferson Davis was the president of the

14:15:51 1 Confederate States of America. He was born in
14:15:53 2 Mississippi and died in New Orleans in 1889. The site
14:16:02 3 for the monument was donated by the city, and Hagan
14:16:04 4 Avenue was renamed Jefferson Davis Parkway. The
14:16:04 5 monument was dedicated on February 22, 1911, on the 50th
14:16:09 6 anniversary of Davis's inauguration as president of the
14:16:13 7 Confederacy.

14:16:14 8 The Jefferson Davis monument is not listed
14:16:16 9 on the National Register. Like General Lee and
14:16:19 10 Beauregard, however, Jefferson Davis has historically
14:16:22 11 been considered "a hero of the Lost Cause in the South."
14:16:26 12 His two-volume defense of Southern ideologies, *The Rise*
14:16:29 13 *and Fall of the Confederate Government*, is considered an
14:16:34 14 important text in the history of the Lost Cause.
14:16:37 15 Several other memorials to Jefferson Davis recently have
14:16:40 16 been challenged and/or vandalized based on Davis's
14:16:45 17 connect to the Confederacy, Including the Davis monument
14:16:50 18 in Richmond, Virginia and Austin, Texas having been
14:16:53 19 tagged with racist phrases such as "black lives matter"
14:16:56 20 and "Davis must fall" in recent months.

14:17:04 21 The Battle of Liberty Place monument.
14:17:06 22 Located at the intersection of Iberville Street and
14:17:09 23 Nadine Street. It's original site is at the foot of
14:17:13 24 Canal Street. It was erected in 1891 and relocated in
14:17:17 25 1989 and 1993. The artist was Charles A. Orleans.

14:17:24 1 The Fourteenth of September Monument
14:17:28 2 Association and the Women's Axillary Committee,
14:17:30 3 established in 1886, raised funds for the erection of
14:17:34 4 the monument to honor the members of the White League
14:17:36 5 that were killed in the Battle of Liberty Place. The
14:17:39 6 Battle of Liberty Place took place in the aftermath of a
14:17:43 7 contested gubernatorial election that resulted in the
14:17:46 8 inauguration of Governor Kellog and his African-America
14:17:51 9 lieutenant governor. On September 14, 1874, 5,000
14:17:55 10 members of the White League entered the city and fought
14:17:58 11 3,500 local police and state malitia. The White League
14:18:03 12 defeated the government forces and occupied the state
14:18:07 13 house for three days. President Ulysses Grant soon sent
14:18:10 14 federal troops to the city, and the White League
14:18:13 15 retreated. Sixteen White League fighters, 13 city
14:18:16 16 police and 6 bystanders were killed.

14:18:19 17 The original 35-foot tall obelisk was
14:18:25 18 erected at the foot of Canal Street in 1891. In 1932,
14:18:29 19 the Crescent City White League added the names of the
14:18:32 20 leaders of the battle, as well as the following
14:18:34 21 inscription:

14:18:35 22 McEnery and Penny, having been elected
14:18:43 23 governor and lieutenant-governor by the white people,
14:18:46 24 were duly installed by this overthrow of carpetbag
14:18:49 25 government, ousting the usurpers Governor Kellog and

14:18:50 1 Lieutenant-Governor Antoine. United States troops took
14:18:56 2 over the state government and reinstated the usurpers
14:18:59 3 but the national election of November 1876 recognized
14:19:05 4 white supremacy in the South and gave us our state.

14:19:10 5 In 1974, after concerns were raised about
14:19:12 6 the language and symbolism of the monument, city
14:19:15 7 officials added the following inscription:

14:19:17 8 Although the Battle of Liberty Place and
14:19:20 9 this monument are important parts of New Orleans'
14:19:23 10 history, the sentiments in favor of white supremacy
14:19:27 11 expressed thereon are contrary to the philosophy and
14:19:30 12 beliefs of present-day New Orleans.

14:19:32 13 The monument was removed from Canal Street
14:19:35 14 while major street renovation were undertaken and placed
14:19:38 15 in a storage facility. The monument was relocated to
14:19:42 16 its present location in 1993 following a federal lawsuit
14:19:46 17 in which certain individuals sought relocation of the
14:19:49 18 memorial. In the process, the city then removed the
14:19:52 19 1932 plaque and replaced it with a new plaque to honor
14:19:57 20 the policemen who died fighting for the state malitia.
14:20:01 21 The plaque included the follow inscription:

14:20:03 22 In honor of those Americans on both sides
14:20:05 23 who died in the Battle of Liberty Place ... a conflict
14:20:08 24 of the past that should teach us lessons for the future.

14:20:11 25 The Battle of Liberty Place monument has

14:20:14 1 been the subject of frequent vandalism and was selected
14:20:17 2 as a location for protest by David Duke in 2004.

14:20:30 3 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you very much.

14:20:31 4 Now, at the request of the commission, I'd
14:20:34 5 like to have some remarks from the administration on
14:20:36 6 this matter.

14:20:40 7 DEPUTY MAYOR REESE MORSE: Good afternoon.
14:20:42 8 I'm Judy Reese Morris, Deputy Mayor of the Citywide
14:20:45 9 Initiatives. And, on behalf of Mayor Landrieu, we are
14:20:50 10 grateful for this opportunity to participate in this
14:20:51 11 important and sensitive discussion about these four
14:20:54 12 Confederate monuments.

14:20:56 13 With me from the mayor's office is Scott
14:20:58 14 Hutchison, senior adviser to the mayor for the Cultural
14:21:02 15 Economy, and Eric Ryannerson, director of Local
14:21:05 16 Government Affairs.

14:21:08 17 We understand your role today is to make a
14:21:10 18 recommendation to the city council on whether the four
14:21:13 19 Confederate monuments in New Orleans being discussed
14:21:16 20 today constitute a public nuisance based solely on the
14:21:20 21 criteria set forth in Section 146-611 of the city code.

14:21:27 22 On July 9th of this year, Mayor Landrieu
14:21:31 23 requested that the city council begin the process for
14:21:34 24 the relocation of four Confederate monuments: The
14:21:39 25 Robert E. Lee statue at Lee Circle, the Jefferson Davis

14:21:43 1 statue on Jefferson Davis Parkway, the PTG Beauregard
14:21:48 2 statue on Esplanade Avenue, and the Battle of Liberty
14:21:52 3 Place monument in Iberville.

14:21:54 4 The mayor has asked that we, the people of
14:21:56 5 New Orleans, examine our city's history as we move
14:22:00 6 toward its 300 anniversary, and that we do so in an
14:22:05 7 honest fashion and in a way that includes the points of
14:22:09 8 view from all New Orleans citizens.

14:22:14 9 No matter what anyone thinks of the statutes
14:22:17 10 or of the decisions made that have led us to this day,
14:22:21 11 it is without question that many who would have had an
14:22:26 12 opinion at that time were not allowed to participate in
14:22:29 13 determining the merits of these statutes when they were
14:22:33 14 erected. Today, this commission is providing a forum
14:22:38 15 for anyone who has an opinion to participate.

14:22:42 16 What we hope we see today is that the people
14:22:45 17 of New Orleans will come to respectfully share their
14:22:49 18 opinions and perspectives on these statutes and be open
14:22:54 19 to hearing those opinions and perspectives that are
14:22:57 20 different from their own. You are certain to hear
14:23:00 21 opinions about what these statutes mean to individuals,
14:23:05 22 to the city and to our history. And from previous
14:23:09 23 comments, you can expect to receive passionate,
14:23:13 24 thoughtful opinions and ideas about the statutes and the
14:23:17 25 cause that they were erected to commemorate. And that

14:23:21 1 is a freedom that, today, we can all enjoy.

14:23:28 2 We believe and ask that you consider this
14:23:29 3 important point: That relocating these four Confederate
14:23:33 4 memorials is not about the individual historic figures
14:23:37 5 but about the broader context of the monuments
14:23:41 6 themselves, how they fit into our history and how they
14:23:46 7 inform us today.

14:23:48 8 Scott Hutchison, senior advisor to the mayor
14:23:50 9 for the Cultural Economy and former assistant secretary
14:23:54 10 for Culture and Historic Preservation for the state of
14:23:58 11 Louisiana, is here to say more about the monuments and
14:24:01 12 how they relate to what is known as the Lost Cause.

14:24:08 13 MR. HUTCHISON: Thank you, Judy.

14:24:10 14 We contend that historical documentation
14:24:12 15 supports that these monuments were erected to promote
14:24:15 16 belief in what is commonly referred to as the Lost Cause
14:24:19 17 of the Confederacy, a movement recognized across the
14:24:22 18 South as one which perpetuated the idea of white
14:24:26 19 supremacy.

14:24:27 20 According to the Encyclopedia of Alabama, a
14:24:30 21 joint project between the Alabama Humanities Foundation
14:24:33 22 and Auburn University, the term Lost Cause emerged at
14:24:37 23 the end of the Civil War when Edward Pollard, editor of
14:24:40 24 the Richmond Examiner, popularized it with his book of
14:24:43 25 the same name.

14:24:44 1 It goes on to state that, since the late
14:24:46 2 19th Century, historians have used the term Lost Cause
14:24:50 3 to describe a particular belief system, as well as
14:24:54 4 commemorative activities that occurred in the South for
14:24:56 5 decades after the Civil War.

14:24:59 6 Commonly-held beliefs of the Lost Cause
14:25:01 7 noted in the encyclopedia are that the war was fought
14:25:05 8 over state's rights and not slavery, that slavery was a
14:25:10 9 benevolent institution that offered Christianity to
14:25:13 10 African savages, and that the war was a just cause in
14:25:17 11 the eyes of God.

14:25:19 12 Commemorative activities of the Lost Cause
14:25:23 13 includes erecting Confederate monuments and celebrating
14:25:27 14 Confederate Memorial Day.

14:25:29 15 According to the Encyclopedia of Alabama,
14:25:31 16 the hay day of the Lost Cause occurred between 1877 and
14:25:35 17 World War I. All four monuments we are discussing today
14:25:38 18 were erected during this period.

14:25:40 19 According to the nomination forms submitted
14:25:43 20 by the National Register of Historical Places for both
14:25:46 21 Lee and Beauregard statues, it is clearly stated that
14:25:50 22 both statutes were erected to support a false memory of
14:25:52 23 history.

14:25:53 24 Quoting from the Lee monument nomination
14:25:55 25 form, quote: The monument represents what is known as

14:25:58 1 the Lost Cause. More particularly, it stands for the
14:26:02 2 central aspect of the cause, the deification of General
14:26:07 3 Robert E. Lee. The Cult of the Lost Cause has its roots
14:26:10 4 in the Southern search for justification and the need to
14:26:13 5 feel a substitute for victory in the Civil War. In a
14:26:18 6 taking to deal with deceit, Southerners created an image
14:26:20 7 of the war as a great heroic effort, end quote.

14:26:24 8 The Daily Picayune reflected the mood when
14:26:27 9 the Robert E. Lee statue was dedicated in 1884, almost
14:26:30 10 two decades after the war ended. Quote: We cannot
14:26:33 11 ignore the fact that the secession has been stigmatized
14:26:37 12 as treason and that the purest and braveness men in the
14:26:41 13 South has been denounced as guilty of shameful crimes.
14:26:44 14 By every appliance of literature and art, we must show
14:26:47 15 to all coming ages that with us, at least, there dwells
14:26:52 16 no sense of guilt, end quote.

14:26:55 17 From the Beauregard National Register of
14:26:56 18 Historic Places Foundation forum, I quote: General
14:27:00 19 Beauregard Equestrian statue is one of three of major
14:27:01 20 monuments representing what is known by historians as
14:27:04 21 the Cult of the Lost Cause. Statutes of this type are
14:27:07 22 tangible symbols of the state of mind which was powerful
14:27:10 23 and pervasive throughout the South well into the 20th
14:27:15 24 Century and some would even argue today, end quote.

14:27:20 25 The Jefferson Davis monument, erected in

14:27:21 1 1911, is not on the National Register, but Jefferson
14:27:25 2 Davis has been considered by historians a hero of the
14:27:27 3 Lost Cause of the South. His two-volume defense of
14:27:32 4 Southern ideology entitled *The Rise and Fall of the*
14:27:34 5 *Confederate Government* is considered an important text
14:27:36 6 in the history of the Lost Cause.

14:27:38 7 As for the Battle of Liberty Place monument,
14:27:42 8 the divisive nature of this memorial is well documented.
14:27:44 9 The Battle of Liberty Place monument was erected to
14:27:46 10 honor the members of the White League at the Battle of
14:27:49 11 Liberty Place. That battle took place after a contested
14:27:53 12 gubernatorial election that resulted in the inauguration
14:27:56 13 of Lieutenant Governor William Kellog and his
14:27:59 14 African-American Lieutenant Governor Cesar Antoine. As
14:28:02 15 a result of this battle, 6 White League fighters, 13
14:28:07 16 city police and 6 bystanders were killed. It has been
14:28:11 17 the site of many violent protests and confrontations
14:28:13 18 over the years.

14:28:15 19 CITY SPOKESPERSON: Thank you, Scott.

14:28:16 20 After considering the history of how and why
14:28:18 21 these monuments were placed in public spaces and after
14:28:22 22 considering what they represent to many New Orleanians,
14:28:25 23 Mayor Landrieu concluded that these monuments do not
14:28:29 24 reflect who we truly are or who we want to be as a city.

14:28:35 25 By relocating these structures, we have the

14:28:37 1 opportunity to change the narrative from the Lost Cause
14:28:41 2 to the story of the new New Orleans, where a diversity
14:28:46 3 of opinions and people with did come together and
14:28:50 4 collectively shape what we are and who we are. This
14:28:53 5 cause is not lost. It is noble, it unites and it has
14:28:58 6 found its place as we create the history of our next 300
14:29:03 7 years.

14:29:04 8 As Mayor Landrieu has said: This is not
14:29:06 9 about Robert E. Lee, the man, or PGT Beauregard, or
14:29:12 10 Jefferson Davis, or the members of the White League.
14:29:14 11 This discussion isn't about them. It is about the
14:29:19 12 ideology that caused their monuments to be erected in
14:29:22 13 the first place. These ideals should never have
14:29:25 14 belonged in a city as great as New Orleans and whose
14:29:28 15 life blood flows from our diversity. We should place
14:29:32 16 these statutes in their proper place in context. We
14:29:37 17 must never forget our history, for those who do will be
14:29:42 18 doomed to repeat it. As Mayor Landrieu has often said:
14:29:46 19 This is about remembrance, not reverence.

14:29:49 20 Thank you so much for the opportunity to
14:29:50 21 participate in today's hearing.

14:29:53 22 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

14:29:54 23 Before you move away from the microphone, I
14:29:56 24 want to ask the commissioners if they have any questions
14:30:01 25 for the mayor or the administration.

14:30:03 1 Thank you for coming. We have one of our
14:30:06 2 commissioners, Commissioner deMontluzin.

14:30:11 3 COMMISSIONER deMONTLUZIN: In the event the
14:30:14 4 monuments were removed and they were placed in their
14:30:16 5 proper place, what would that be?

14:30:20 6 CITY SPOKESPERSON: As this process
14:30:22 7 continues, questions and answers like those will be
14:30:24 8 determined.

14:30:25 9 I will remind everybody that this part of
14:30:27 10 the process includes getting public comment from this
14:30:30 11 body, as well as the Human Relations Commission, which
14:30:33 12 will, as you said earlier, take place this evening, with
14:30:36 13 the final public hearing to be held before the city
14:30:40 14 council. Questions and answers will be given by the
14:30:42 15 Chief Administrative Office, the city attorney's office,
14:30:46 16 the police superintendent and the Department of Property
14:30:49 17 Management. And I'm certain that the questions like
14:30:52 18 those and many others will be posed, and answers will be
14:30:58 19 provided throughout this process.

14:31:00 20 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

14:31:01 21 Commissioner Alexander.

14:31:01 22 COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER: I have a question
14:31:05 23 for you as well. I realize that, as far as you
14:31:12 24 understand, there has been no definitive proposal on
14:31:16 25 where the statutes will be placed and moved. Have there

14:31:21 1 been any proposals, to your knowledge, at all, that you
14:31:24 2 can share with us?

14:31:26 3 CITY SPOKESPERSON: None that I have
14:31:27 4 formally seen. But there have been many forums on this
14:31:30 5 discussion and on this topic, and many things proposed.
14:31:33 6 And as I said, this process will allow there to be
14:31:38 7 public comment and proposals to come forth.

14:31:41 8 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you again.

14:31:43 9 Now we'll begin the public comment part of
14:31:45 10 this meeting. We're going to start with the people that
14:31:48 11 are in favor of the removal of the monuments. I have a
14:31:51 12 clock up here that's the official clock. I have a bell
14:31:54 13 up here. Keep your remarks as succinct as possible.

14:32:00 14 And to those in the audience who are not
14:32:01 15 speaking, please try to refrain from any comments or any
14:32:06 16 kind of public demonstration. It will make the meeting
14:32:10 17 go smoother, and it's only fair to everybody in the
14:32:13 18 building.

14:32:18 19 The first card I have, and this is to keep
14:32:21 20 -- for removal of the monuments, is Barbara Major.

14:32:28 21 CITIZEN MAJOR: Good afternoon. My name is
14:32:29 22 Barbara Major. My address is 3601 Rue Michelle, New
14:32:34 23 Orleans, Louisiana.

14:32:34 24 I am definitely for removal of the statues.
14:32:38 25 What they represent is an ideology, and they represent a

14:32:43 1 time when my people could not speak. They could not
14:32:46 2 say: Don't put this up. It represents a savagery
14:32:50 3 committed against my people for generations.

14:32:53 4 The Lost Cause apparently is not completely
14:32:56 5 lost. There are people who are actually wanting to
14:33:00 6 continue to celebrate this. It is amazing that, in
14:33:04 7 2015, I'm fighting Robert E. Lee. It's almost
14:33:08 8 hilarious.

14:33:09 9 These statutes represent white supremacy,
14:33:12 10 they represent an ignorance, they represent hatred and
14:33:15 11 they represent the noninclusion of people that look like
14:33:18 12 me.

14:33:19 13 They do not represent the pain in my -- that
14:33:22 14 my people felt. None of at all.

14:33:26 15 The fact that we are even having this
14:33:28 16 long-term discussion -- I am not saying tear the statues
14:33:32 17 up. Move them.

14:33:33 18 I'm a New Orleanian. I am born here. My
14:33:35 19 father, my grandfather could not say --

14:33:37 20 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Your time is up. Thank
14:33:37 21 you.

14:33:40 22 CITIZEN MAJOR: Move the statues.

14:33:45 23 (APPLAUSE)

14:33:47 24 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Chuck Perkins.

14:33:54 25 CITIZEN PERKINS: My name is Chuck Perkins.

14:33:56 1 My address is 4655 Franklin Avenue.

14:33:59 2 I'm proud to say I'm an ex-Marine. I served
14:34:02 3 my country and I served it well. Ms. Barbara talked
14:34:05 4 about how she can't believe that we still talking about
14:34:10 5 this in 2015. I want everybody to remember, if we don't
14:34:14 6 do something about it, we going to be talking about it
14:34:16 7 in 2315, and that would really be a shame.

14:34:19 8 Now, when we talk about these monuments,
14:34:21 9 there's one thing that everybody's missing. These
14:34:23 10 monuments were all put up during post-Reconstruction.
14:34:27 11 There's something that happened in this country during
14:34:29 12 post-Reconstruction, and that is that there were more
14:34:33 13 black men lynched in this country than ever before in
14:34:36 14 this history. In post-Reconstruction, that's when they
14:34:40 15 were all put up. And it goes right back to what she
14:34:43 16 just said. So the people who were being terrorized, who
14:34:46 17 didn't have a voice, the group of people who did have
14:34:49 18 the power and control inflicted that terror upon them,
14:34:54 19 put them statues up. There ain't no way in the world
14:34:57 20 that we need to be defending the right for Robert E. Lee
14:35:00 21 to be on the highest pedestal in this city in 2015.

14:35:04 22 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Your time is up.

14:35:05 23 CITIZEN PERKINS: It's time for the statues
14:35:07 24 to go.

14:35:09 25 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Marley Darvassy,

14:35:12 1 Darvasat?

14:35:13 2 I apologize in advance if I mispronounce
14:35:15 3 your name.

14:35:18 4 Step forward and state your name and
14:35:19 5 address.

14:35:20 6 CITIZEN DARVASSY: My name is Marley
14:35:22 7 Darvassy. I live at 5115 South Lee University Avenue.
14:35:24 8 I live in Chicago, by the way. But I come down here,
14:35:28 9 you know, to New Orleans, and I look around and I see a
14:35:33 10 city full of colors and wonderful people; right? But
14:35:36 11 then you turn and you see the statues that are
14:35:38 12 representing an ideology based off of hatred, something
14:35:42 13 that will never allow the social evolution regarding
14:35:46 14 equity. You know, black people are equal on paper; but
14:35:49 15 as long as we have statues like this, there's never
14:35:51 16 going to be such a thing as equity in this country and
14:35:54 17 in this city. Thank you.

14:35:56 18 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

14:36:01 19 Tyrone Walker.

14:36:19 20 CITIZEN WALKER: Good evening. My name is
14:36:21 21 Tyrone Walker. I live at 2062 Benefits Street.

14:36:23 22 Some of my friends have said we have more
14:36:26 23 important things to talk about. Whether it's the larger
14:36:28 24 issues of crime, jobs, schools, there's no shortage of
14:36:31 25 people working on these tough issues. Are we want we

14:36:35 1 want to be? No. But no one can say with a straight
14:36:38 2 face that those issues aren't being addressed by strong
14:36:42 3 people all throughout our community. But history has
14:36:45 4 given us today an issue that we citizens can influence
14:36:48 5 directly. This is a time for us to act and show
14:36:51 6 courage. This is hard because it doesn't allow us, the
14:36:54 7 citizens, to blame or to point the finger or the tough
14:36:57 8 decision to someone else.

14:36:58 9 The question today is what will history
14:37:01 10 write about us today in this room. Decades ago, as Ms.
14:37:05 11 Roberts said, not all citizens of New Orleans actually
14:37:08 12 had the right to speak out on this issue. Today, we get
14:37:11 13 an opportunity.

14:37:12 14 The fact is, citizens of the past erected
14:37:16 15 these statues of hatred and division in public prominent
14:37:20 16 places. That is our history. Those prominent statues
14:37:24 17 represent the worst of other collective history.

14:37:26 18 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

14:37:28 19 CITIZEN WALKER: But they need to be taken
14:37:30 20 down.

14:37:30 21 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you for your
14:37:31 22 remarks.

14:37:31 23 Jeffrey Goodman.

14:37:43 24 CITIZEN GOODMAN: Hello. My name is Jeffrey
14:37:46 25 Goodman. I live at 2990 Constance, here in New Orleans.

14:37:50 1 Any monument exists to as three symbols at
14:37:52 2 one. It is a depiction of the subject taken by the
14:37:58 3 battalion that raised the depiction and has a separate
14:37:58 4 meaning used by subsequent societies. On all levels,
14:38:02 5 these statues fail to depict New Orleans it was, as it
14:38:05 6 is and as it should be, and are continuing to insult the
14:38:08 7 values and goals of Americans.

14:38:10 8 We've heard many citizens speak out loudly,
14:38:13 9 both personally and antithetically about how these
14:38:17 10 status are obfuscating to African-Americans. There can
14:38:20 11 be no doubt about that.

14:38:20 12 I would argue, inherently, not gratuitously,
14:38:24 13 that as much as these monuments shame African-Americans,
14:38:25 14 they deceive and manipulate white people as well. Why
14:38:29 15 else would so many rush to defend the traitors that are
14:38:32 16 erected by a society explicitly built on white
14:38:35 17 supremacy, symbols that have been used for 150 years to
14:38:35 18 continue racial, if not for so many to have learned the
14:38:42 19 reality that has been broadcast and embodied by these
14:38:44 20 statues.

14:38:46 21 Tear these statues down. Put them in their
14:38:48 22 proper context. History is complicated, no doubt; but
14:38:51 23 nowhere is that history more complicated than in New
14:38:56 24 Orleans.

14:38:56 25 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Your time is up. Thank

14:38:56 1 you.

14:38:57 2 It looks likes Chris Clark or -- the next
14:39:08 3 speaker I have after that is to be George Mahde.

14:39:17 4 A SPECTATOR: Can we call the cards in
14:39:19 5 order, please?

14:39:22 6 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: That's what I'm doing.

14:39:24 7 A SPECTATOR: No, it's not. Because I was
14:39:26 8 here.

14:39:31 9 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: State your name and
14:39:31 10 address.

14:39:33 11 CITIZEN CLARK: Chris Clark, 5501
14:39:34 12 (inaudible) New Orleans, Louisiana.

14:39:35 13 Again, we said -- first of all, to
14:39:42 14 (inaudible) then you said to rid of New Orleans avail of
14:39:46 15 federal statues. But New Orleans is totally prepared to
14:39:51 16 rid the United States of America and the world of the
14:39:56 17 symbols of white supremacy. And we talking about the
14:39:58 18 culture of the white supremacy. We talking about the
14:40:02 19 idea of Robert E. Lee and Beauregard. We're talking
14:40:03 20 about the Atlantic slave trade. We talking about the
14:40:07 21 boundaries of America. America was founded on the
14:40:13 22 symbols and principles of white supremacy. We talking
14:40:15 23 about the Civil War, you know, was fought in reference
14:40:24 24 to the South, in reference to the slaves. Again, you
14:40:29 25 talking about the Reconstruction period. You know, we

14:40:34 1 talking about also, you know, the Jeff Code (sic) system
14:40:38 2 and things. We're talking about all the way to the
14:40:40 3 current presidency.

14:40:41 4 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Your time is up. Thank
14:40:43 5 you for your comments.

14:40:46 6 A SPECTATOR: That so rude.

14:40:48 7 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: This is George Mahde.

14:40:53 8 CITIZEN MAHDE: Mahde.

14:40:57 9 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Again, I apologize if I
14:40:58 10 mispronounce your name.

14:41:01 11 Will you state your address for the record,
14:41:03 12 please.

14:41:03 13 CITIZEN MAHDE: George Mahde, neighborhood
14:41:08 14 Edinburgh.

14:41:10 15 David Vitters' commented on how the mayor
14:41:13 16 should be concentrated on the murder rate and on the
14:41:16 17 crime rate, instead of monuments. But we feel that the
14:41:20 18 issues are intertwined in the history and heritage of
14:41:26 19 the Confederacy is one of upholding slavery, of
14:41:31 20 upholding racism and upholding injustice and inequality,
14:41:34 21 white supremacy. And if that's your history, then it's
14:41:37 22 one that we can't accept at all.

14:41:40 23 We couldn't hoist a Black Panthers flag up
14:41:44 24 here. That would be offensive to some segments of the
14:41:52 25 audience. So we at the same time cannot accept these

14:41:58 1 Confederate symbols to be exhibited either. So we are
14:42:02 2 asking that these symbols be removed. We're demanding
14:42:06 3 that they be removed because this is a --

14:42:10 4 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you. Your time is
14:42:11 5 up.

14:42:12 6 Reverend Larry Story. And that's going to
14:42:14 7 be followed by Sandra Wheeler Hester.

14:42:24 8 State your name and address for the record,
14:42:25 9 please.

14:42:26 10 CITIZEN STORY: Referred Larry Story, 5501
14:42:26 11 Tullis Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana.

14:42:26 12 As a member of the African Methodist
14:42:38 13 Episcopal Church, I can immediately relate to the hatred
14:42:39 14 that took place at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston,
14:42:45 15 South Carolina. Since we're talking about southern
14:42:45 16 heritage, I want to take an excerpt from the language,
14:42:49 17 the secessionist language that was used by the very
14:42:52 18 states that succeeded from the Union, particularly
14:42:55 19 Texas, which relates to all of the states:

14:42:58 20 We hold as undeniable truths that the
14:43:03 21 governments of the various states and of the Confederacy
14:43:06 22 itself were established exclusively by the white race
14:43:10 23 for themselves and their prosperity. That the African
14:43:14 24 race had no agency in their establishment. That they
14:43:18 25 were rightfully held and regarded as an inferior and

14:43:22 1 dependent race, and in that condition only could their
14:43:27 2 existence in this country be rendered beneficial and
14:43:31 3 tolerable. That the servitude --

14:43:34 4 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Your time is up. I'm
14:43:35 5 sorry. Thank you for your comments.

14:43:39 6 Ms. Hester.

14:43:48 7 Will you state your name and address for the
14:43:49 8 record, please.

14:43:50 9 CITIZEN HESTER: I heard the instruction at
14:43:52 10 the beginning. Although a lot of people who came up
14:43:57 11 here already --

14:43:58 12 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Please, please, please,
14:44:00 13 state your name.

14:44:01 14 CITIZEN HESTER: Is this my comment period?

14:44:02 15 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: No, this is not. You
14:44:04 16 cannot comment until you state your name and address.

14:44:08 17 CITIZEN HESTER: Sandra 18-wheeler Hester.
14:44:10 18 Got it? Okay.

14:44:12 19 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: And state your address,
14:44:13 20 please.

14:44:14 21 CITIZEN HESTER: 2317 Robert E. Lee
14:44:17 22 Boulevard.

14:44:17 23 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

14:44:18 24 Please go ahead.

14:44:20 25 CITIZEN HESTER: Now, you can start the

14:44:21 1 clock.

14:44:21 2 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Just did.

14:44:24 3 CITIZEN HESTER: Good. Don't want my time
14:44:26 4 to go. Don't take my time.

14:44:28 5 I am a general, too. General Sandra
14:44:33 6 18-Wheeler Hester. I'm a general of the poor, the
14:44:36 7 black, the brown, white, poor whites, who pay taxes and
14:44:41 8 do most of the living, working and dying in this city to
14:44:45 9 keep this plantation going. And any day and time that
14:44:50 10 they wanted to shut this plantation down, they can do
14:44:53 11 it.

14:44:55 12 Now, does anybody think that Jewish people
14:44:58 13 would allow a statue, a monument, a street, named after
14:45:06 14 Adolph Hitler, were to look down and Lord (sic) and live
14:45:08 15 on those streets anywhere in the world? They wouldn't.
14:45:14 16 And we are not going to stand for it either.

14:45:17 17 Now, you guys take it down or we will take
14:45:20 18 it down.

14:45:24 19 Wait a minute. You got a clock up there?

14:45:26 20 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Yes, I do have a clock.
14:45:28 21 Your time is up.

14:45:30 22 CITIZEN HESTER: And so is the time of the
14:45:32 23 statues.

14:45:35 24 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Reverend Morel. Please
14:45:48 25 state your name.

14:45:49 1 CITIZEN MOREL: My name is Melanie Morel. I
14:45:51 2 live at 5240 Art Street in Gentilly.
14:45:56 3 Historical markers should do three things:
14:45:58 4 First and foremost, they should tell the
14:46:01 5 truth.
14:46:01 6 Secondly, they should represent common
14:46:03 7 values and principles that uplift a community.
14:46:07 8 And if a marker commemorates a tragedy or a
14:46:11 9 historic wrong, it should tell truth, explain context
14:46:16 10 and deplore the false values of the past.
14:46:20 11 The New Orleans Confederate monuments do
14:46:23 12 none of these three things. I completely and totally
14:46:28 13 support the removal of the monuments and putting them
14:46:31 14 into a proper historical context with plaques deploying
14:46:36 15 the false values for which they stand. Thank you.
14:46:40 16 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you for your time.
14:46:51 17 (APPLAUSE)
14:46:53 18 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Sue Kohn. And she's
14:46:54 19 follow by Malcolm Suba.
14:46:57 20 CITIZEN KOHN: Good afternoon. My name is
14:46:59 21 Sue Kohn and I live at 1815 Audubon Street in New
14:47:03 22 Orleans.
14:47:04 23 I think it's very difficult for some white
14:47:07 24 people to understand why these monuments are so
14:47:11 25 offensive to black people and why they should be

14:47:13 1 offensive --

14:47:15 2 THE MODERATOR: Could you please speak into
14:47:17 3 the mic, please? We can't hear you.

14:47:17 4 CITIZEN KOHN: -- and why they should be
14:47:19 5 offensive to all of us.

14:47:20 6 Try to imagine what it would be like to live
14:47:24 7 in a city with symbols that represent the people who
14:47:28 8 enslaved, beat, raped and murdered your people.

14:47:31 9 I am Jewish, and I agree with what Ms.
14:47:34 10 Hester said. My grandmother wasn't born in this
14:47:38 11 country, and we had relatives who were killed in the
14:47:40 12 holocaust. And one of our cousins survived the
14:47:44 13 concentration camps, and I grew up with her. And I can
14:47:47 14 tell you that there is no way I could bear to live in a
14:47:51 15 place with symbols and statues that represent what the
14:47:54 16 Nazis did. I couldn't bear to walk by a statue of a
14:47:58 17 Nazi or a statue of Adolph Hitler or his henchmen like
14:48:05 18 Heinrich Himmler. I couldn't and I wouldn't.

14:48:06 19 And what we are talking about here is no
14:48:07 20 less --

14:48:08 21 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: I'm sorry, your time is
14:48:10 22 up. But thank you for your time.

14:48:13 23 The next one is Malcolm Suba.

14:48:17 24 CITIZEN SUBA: Suba.

14:48:17 25 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Followed by Solomon.

14:48:19 1 CITIZEN SUBA: Good afternoon. My name is
14:48:22 2 Malcolm Suba. I live at 4366 Randolph Avenue in
14:48:25 3 Gentilly.

14:48:26 4 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

14:48:27 5 CITIZEN SUBA: I'm here to say that not only
14:48:32 6 the four statues but all the Confederate monuments in
14:48:35 7 this city.

14:48:37 8 It is patently clear that the intention of
14:48:41 9 putting these statues up was to lower over an opposed
14:48:47 10 African-American people, and that this is a continued
14:48:50 11 symbol in this city of the continued oppression of black
14:48:54 12 people. This is why we have so many black people in
14:48:57 13 this city unemployed. This is why we have poor schools
14:49:02 14 in this city. All this is based upon the white
14:49:05 15 supremacy etiology that black people deserve less and
14:49:09 16 are less. We do not support that. We in the Take 'em
14:49:15 17 Down Nola coalition are for removing all symbols of
14:49:19 18 white supremacy, and this is what we're going to do, and
14:49:22 19 this is what we're intending to do. Thank you.

14:49:25 20 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you for your time.

14:49:27 21 Solomon. And that's to be followed by
14:49:29 22 Kevin Zeno.

14:49:34 23 CITIZEN SOLOMON: My name is William
14:49:35 24 Solomon, 3333 Eatonville Avenue.

14:49:38 25 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Welcome.

14:49:39 1 A SPECTATOR: Excuse me?

14:49:39 2 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Welcome.

14:49:40 3 CITIZEN SOLOMON: Thank you.

14:49:45 4 For those people who want them to stay out,

14:49:49 5 that tells me that they want to hold up being lazy,

14:49:52 6 good-for-nothing, shipless. They want service, they

14:49:55 7 want slaves. It's offensive. You say you're a citizen,

14:50:00 8 you're a patriot? Well, those people lost. They're

14:50:02 9 dead. So let it go. Let it go. Hatred is dying. And

14:50:06 10 if you cling to it, it's going to take you with it. And

14:50:09 11 I'll bet 90 percent of the people who want these things

14:50:12 12 to stay up, they have somebody black in their house,

14:50:15 13 watching their children, cooking their food, watching

14:50:19 14 their grandmother. If we were all that, why do you let

14:50:23 15 us do that? So that tells you in and it itself, you're

14:50:27 16 liars.

14:50:30 17 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

14:50:32 18 Kevin Zeno, followed by Pat Bryant.

14:50:38 19 CITIZEN ZENO: Hello. My name is Kevin

14:50:40 20 Zeno. 1512 Louisiana. I, too, was a Marine, Army

14:50:47 21 National Guard, retired, disabled vet.

14:50:54 22 One of the first things that happened when

14:50:58 23 the military rode into Iraq, all of the statues of

14:51:02 24 Saddam came down. All of them came down. The people

14:51:04 25 took them down.

14:51:06 1 The people in North Korea, they got Kim
14:51:13 2 Jong-un and his camp all over. That's the way to keep
14:51:14 3 the people oppressed.

14:51:16 4 Now, I understand some people have some
14:51:19 5 feelings towards having these statues, and these statues
14:51:22 6 should be in appropriate venues. They should be in
14:51:27 7 museums.

14:51:27 8 The General Beauregard statue could easily
14:51:29 9 be put up at Camp Beauregard, where there are several
14:51:34 10 statues there. And it wouldn't take anything in the
14:51:36 11 moment. The National Guard can pull a hammock up next
14:51:40 12 to it and put it on the flatbed and pull it up there.

14:51:43 13 What I'm saying is, being a former soldier
14:51:46 14 or Marine, you tend to respect your enemy or your
14:51:49 15 adversary, and you should allow --

14:51:51 16 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: I'm sorry, sir, your time
14:51:54 17 is up.

14:51:54 18 CITIZEN ZENO: Just finish. Allow these
14:51:56 19 people to roll up their flags and go home and move on.

14:52:00 20 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

14:52:01 21 Pat Bryant, followed by August Forman.

14:52:06 22 Pat Bryant. Not here?

14:52:09 23 August Forman. Followed by Parker Shawn
14:52:17 24 Anglim.

14:52:17 25 So we're at August Forman.

14:52:27 1 CITIZEN FORMAN: August Forman. 2626

14:52:30 2 Felicity.

14:52:31 3 We are here because we all know what those
14:52:34 4 statues that represent. It speaks for itself. It's
14:52:39 5 racism and, you know, white supremacy.

14:52:41 6 And then, it's not just about statues at
14:52:44 7 all. You name the state prison, Angola. That is named
14:52:50 8 after. It's the same thing.

14:52:52 9 And so I just want to say that I did find a
14:52:56 10 place for them, you know, put them in the cemetery in
14:53:01 11 heaps. And you talk the ones that want to have it up,
14:53:04 12 take them along with them. All right?

14:53:07 13 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

14:53:13 14 Parker Shawn Anglim.

14:53:22 15 CITIZEN ANGLIM: Shawn Anglim, pastor of
14:53:25 16 First Grace, 920 South Cedar.

14:53:29 17 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Pastor, I apologize.

14:53:31 18 CITIZEN ANGLIM: Forgiven.

14:53:34 19 CITIZEN BARRIERE: We appear before you, and
14:53:36 20 it's an important time in the life of our country and
14:53:38 21 our city. We are -- the events following the tragic
14:53:43 22 murders of the congregation and pastor at MAE Church in
14:53:49 23 Charleston, South Carolina, and at least a movement of
14:53:53 24 grace allowing the country to look deeply and
14:53:53 25 spiritually at the sins of its racist past. They have

14:53:59 1 been the actions prompted by this movement of grace, of
14:54:05 2 violence and other acts that have moved us to be here.

14:54:06 3 And an interfaith group of clergy has come
14:54:08 4 together to address the concerns of the public symbols
14:54:12 5 of the past in New Orleans. While we look to remove
14:54:15 6 these monuments, we know we will not solve all the ills.

14:54:20 7 We believe that symbols tell stories
14:54:24 8 intended to inspire. These monuments being discussed do
14:54:28 9 not represent vision we desire for our city's future.

14:54:34 10 CITIZEN ANGLIM: And, in conclusion, we
14:54:36 11 clergy appreciate the human tie that some of our city
14:54:39 12 have to these monuments. We would simply ask you to
14:54:42 13 accept the fact that, when these monuments were erected,
14:54:45 14 at best, they disregarded the personhood of more than
14:54:49 15 half of all New Orleanians; and, at worse, that is
14:54:53 16 exactly what was intended in their erecting. These
14:54:57 17 monuments were public symbols that began the Jim Crow
14:55:01 18 era of discrimination and then legalized segregation.
14:55:08 19 These monuments have a place, but not as inspirational
14:55:11 20 figures for us, for our children, nor their children, to
14:55:15 21 gather under and to unite as one city, as one group of
14:55:20 22 New Orleanians. We respectfully ask that they be
14:55:23 23 removed to a more appropriate place, such as museum.

14:55:29 24 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

14:55:29 25 CITIZEN ANGLIM: Thank you for your

14:55:31 1 consideration, Clergy For a United City.

14:55:36 2 THE MODERATOR: They need to give their
14:55:37 3 names and addresses.

14:55:38 4 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: I know we've got Pastor
14:55:40 5 -- what was the other pastor's name and address, so
14:55:42 6 we'll have it will for the official record?

14:55:44 7 CITIZEN BARRIERE: Pastor Antoine Barriere,
14:55:47 8 61 English Turn Drive.

14:55:50 9 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you very much.
14:55:55 10 We have Robert McDowell.

14:55:57 11 CITIZEN BRYANT: Excuse me, you just called
14:55:59 12 my name.

14:56:00 13 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: What is your name?

14:56:01 14 CITIZEN BRYANT: Pat Bryant.

14:56:05 15 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: No, I don't think so.
14:56:08 16 Oh, Pat Bryant?

14:56:10 17 CITIZEN BRYANT: That's me.

14:56:11 18 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Yes, were you called.

14:56:12 19 All right. Go ahead. State your name and
14:56:17 20 address for the record, please.

14:56:19 21 CITIZEN BRYANT: Pat Bryant, 2832 Seratine
14:56:23 22 Street.

14:56:23 23 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

14:56:25 24 CITIZEN BRYANT: We have to thank the
14:56:27 25 president. When I say the president, Barack Obama, for

14:56:33 1 bringing all of us here today. Because, as a young man,
14:56:40 2 like many of us, who was disturbed about the way this
14:56:44 3 country was going, in the hands of black people, in the
14:56:49 4 hands of Latinos, in the hands of women. And that
14:56:54 5 person took his gun and killed nine people and he said:
14:57:02 6 I want to start a race war.

14:57:06 7 Now, we're here today, and it looks like he
14:57:12 8 has succeeded. Because I don't hear -- I hear from some
14:57:19 9 pastors, and I'm glad that those pastors are here to
14:57:25 10 talk about love thy neighbor as thyself --

14:57:27 11 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you. Your time is
14:57:29 12 up. Thank you.

14:56:30 13 CITIZEN BRYANT: New Orleans, Louisiana --

14:57:32 14 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Your time is up, sir.

14:57:35 15 CITIZEN BRYANT: You need to hear and think
14:57:36 16 about love thy neighbor as thyself.

14:57:38 17 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Sir, your time is up.

14:57:40 18 Robin McDowell, followed by Sam Gordon.

14:57:47 19 CITIZEN McDOWELL: My name is Robin
14:57:51 20 McDowell, and my address is 2955 Ground Route, St. John.

14:57:55 21 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

14:57:58 22 CITIZEN McDOWELL: I ask that the statues in
14:58:01 23 question be removed immediately and that the city
14:58:01 24 council approve the removal of all monuments on public
14:58:06 25 land that display racial violence.

14:58:07 1 The term from sociologist Orlando Patterson,
14:58:11 2 social death, does indeed indicate that these monuments
14:58:16 3 endanger mental health for the citizens of New Orleans'
14:58:17 4 public welfare and the wellbeing of our community.
14:58:19 5 Social death is the loss of identity suffered by
14:58:22 6 enslaved Africans due to one of the most extreme forms
14:58:26 7 of the relation of domination, approaching the limits of
14:58:28 8 total power from the viewpoint of the master, and of
14:58:32 9 total powerlessness from the point of his slave. The
14:58:35 10 monuments are physical messages for public adoration of
14:58:38 11 masters who solidify conditions for modern social death.

14:58:41 12 We can do so much better for New Orleans.
14:58:44 13 We can start recovering and reconstructing, and start
14:58:48 14 leading a charge for wellbeing in America's cities, and
14:58:51 15 start leading the creation of opportunities to learn and
14:58:54 16 teach from the viewpoints of the marginalized, oppressed
14:58:57 17 and underrepresented, starting --

14:58:59 18 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Sorry. Your time is up.
14:59:01 19 But thank you.

14:59:02 20 CITIZEN McDOWELL: Thank you.

14:59:03 21 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Reverend Sam Cook.

14:59:07 22 Sam Gordon is next. That's to be followed
14:59:09 23 by Reverend Jim Vanderdeele.

14:59:12 24 CITIZEN GORDAN: Good afternoon. Sam
14:59:14 25 Gordon, 3304 Banks Street, about three blocks away from

14:59:19 1 the monument for Jefferson Davis.

14:59:21 2 I'm a sole proprietor educator and I work
14:59:22 3 with young people. I teach that a metaphor is a point
14:59:25 4 that highlights a connection between two unlike things.
14:59:25 5 The strength of the metaphor depends on the quality of
14:59:31 6 the connection between the two things that at first
14:59:33 7 glance seem unrelated.

14:59:34 8 I believe the statue of Jefferson Davis is a
14:59:36 9 metaphor for white supremacy. Walk into most public
14:59:39 10 school today, and you will see a segregation system that
14:59:41 11 is so separate and still not equal.

14:59:44 12 When it's time for major development
14:59:45 13 projects, planners never target majority white neighbors
14:59:45 14 for demolition.

14:59:50 15 The problem with this statue is metaphorical
14:59:52 16 but it is not abstract. The statue affirms the concrete
14:59:57 17 reality that we, white people in New Orleans, stand by,
15:00:01 18 or, worse, actively validate our supreme position in
15:00:05 19 this society.

15:00:06 20 I believe that moving this statue and
15:00:07 21 replacing it with one that honors black history, black
15:00:10 22 experience and black life is one small but necessary
15:00:14 23 step in shifting the minds of white people away from
15:00:17 24 acceptance of a society where whites are supreme. Thank
15:00:21 25 you.

15:00:21 1 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you for your time.

15:00:21 2 (APPLAUSE)

15:00:24 3 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Reverend Jim Vanderdeele.

15:00:26 4 I know I'm mispronouncing your name, and I apologize.

15:00:29 5 And that's followed by Divante D. Almestion,

15:00:35 6 I think.

15:00:37 7 Go ahead, state your name and address for

15:00:37 8 the record.

15:00:38 9 CITIZEN VANDERDEELE: Reverend Jim

15:00:43 10 Vanderdeele, 8417 Freret Street.

15:00:43 11 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Welcome.

15:00:44 12 CITIZEN VANDERDEELE: I cannot speak for my

15:00:46 13 African-American brothers and sisters here, but I can

15:00:50 14 feel for them. And I feel for them because I believe in

15:00:54 15 the golden rule. I believe that what it says is very

15:00:57 16 important: That we treat others as we would like to be

15:00:59 17 treated.

15:01:03 18 It has been many years since these statues

15:01:05 19 were put up. And my hope is that at this time here, in

15:01:09 20 2015, we can take a look at this and we can deal with

15:01:13 21 these statues and put them in their proper place. So

15:01:16 22 that sometime 50, 75, 100 years from now, our

15:01:23 23 great-great grandchildren will not have to say: Oh,

15:01:25 24 they looked at this in 2015 and they decided in the city

15:01:31 25 of New Orleans they did not want to do anything about it

15:01:34 1 right now. That would not be an attitude for expression
15:01:38 2 of care and love and sympathy and appreciation for our
15:01:42 3 fellow human beings, which is what we need at this time.

15:01:46 4 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

15:01:53 5 Divante D. -- I know I'm not doing a good
15:01:55 6 job with that. I apologize.

15:01:56 7 And the next speaker will be Johnese Smith.

15:01:59 8 Go ahead, please.

15:02:00 9 CITIZEN ALMESTION: Good afternoon. My name
15:02:02 10 is Divante Almestion. I live at 2255 St. Charles
15:02:04 11 Avenue.

15:02:04 12 Treason. The Confederate States of America
15:02:07 13 forces bombarded the US base Fort Sumpter on April 12,
15:02:11 14 1861, and the Rebels knew that they were wrong.

15:02:15 15 PTG Beauregard stated that the curse of God
15:02:16 16 must have been on our people when he chose them out, but
15:02:19 17 so many noble sons of the South who have carried us
15:02:21 18 safely through this revolution. Spoken by a traitor, a
15:02:24 19 traitor to the United States of America. And his
15:02:27 20 statement is the admission of guilt. It was a curse of
15:02:30 21 God, not the Union military superiority, but God cursed
15:02:35 22 the secessionists because the pharisee and whatever
15:02:39 23 these men stood for was morally wrong. The Confederacy
15:02:40 24 was unjust and inhumane in their ways and policies and
15:02:43 25 conduct. But New Orleans honors their existence with

15:02:47 1 monuments.

15:02:47 2 Now the Jefferson Davis -- and here's one
15:02:49 3 that's cloaked in slavery: As a mere historical fact,
15:02:53 4 we have seen that African servitude among us --
15:02:56 5 confessdly the mildest and most humane of all
15:02:58 6 institutions to which named "slavery" has ever been
15:03:01 7 applied... That's spoken by a madman. When is it
15:03:05 8 humane or mild to kidnap or buy someone from their
15:03:07 9 native land? When is just to separate families?

15:03:10 10 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: I'm sorry, your time is
15:03:12 11 up. Thank you for your comments.

15:03:14 12 CITIZEN ALMESTION: Put them inside, to
15:03:15 13 answer your question.

15:03:19 14 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: This is -- I know I'm
15:03:25 15 mispronouncing the name. Welcome. Please state your
15:03:28 16 name and address.

15:03:29 17 CITIZEN SMITH: My name is Johnese Smith. I
15:03:30 18 live at 409 Elmira Avenue in Algiers Point.

15:03:37 19 This may come as a shock to some of you, but
15:03:40 20 I would like the statues to remain.

15:03:40 21 (APPLAUSE)

15:03:46 22 CITIZEN SMITH: And here's why. You've
15:03:49 23 heard the history of why they were erected in the first
15:03:54 24 place. You have heard the comments about people
15:03:56 25 believing that they represent slavery. And they are all

15:04:01 1 true. But when you decide to take something down, you
15:04:11 2 are giving it power over you.

15:04:13 3 I'm a native of New Orleans, and I've walked
15:04:16 4 past these statues many a time, and not at one time did
15:04:23 5 they talk, walk or ask me any questions. I do not give
15:04:28 6 them any power over me because I know who I am, I know
15:04:33 7 what my family, as an African-American people, have been
15:04:37 8 through here in America. I don't want those statues
15:04:40 9 torn down no more than I want the statues torn down in
15:04:44 10 Egypt.

15:04:45 11 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Sorry, your time is up.
15:04:47 12 Thank you.

15:05:01 13 Acquanette Borhec. Again, like I sad, I
15:05:03 14 apologize.

15:05:04 15 That's going to be followed by Thomas
15:05:10 16 Schwank.

15:05:19 17 CITIZEN BORHEC: My name is Acquanette
15:05:21 18 Borhec. I live at 2255 Calliope.

15:05:23 19 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Welcome.

15:05:24 20 CITIZEN BORHEC: What I want to say is that,
15:05:27 21 my understanding, in connection with South Carolina,
15:05:32 22 that the blacks, no flag of any kind but the red white
15:05:36 23 and blue flag, should be under any city, state or
15:05:40 24 federal building, because that represents the United
15:05:44 25 States and not just a group of people.

15:05:45 1 Now, I understand the difference between the
15:05:47 2 North and South. And the North want to abolish slavery
15:05:50 3 but the South wanted to keep slavery. That's how the
15:05:55 4 war started. And that's because they were kidnapping
15:05:58 5 blacks from other countries to turn their land because
15:06:01 6 they had too much to turn on their own self. Why don't
15:06:04 7 you take that right off the podium, put the -- raise the
15:06:09 8 flags, put the veterans over there by the World War and
15:06:13 9 call it Veterans Circle?

15:06:15 10 Okay. You talking about in Alabama, but
15:06:18 11 George Wallace was a racist. He found God when he got
15:06:21 12 shot.

15:06:22 13 David Booth was grand marshal of the Ku Klux
15:06:26 14 Klan.

15:06:26 15 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you for your time.

15:06:28 16 CITIZEN BORHEC: All right.

15:06:31 17 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

15:06:32 18 Thomas Schwank. Followed by Aimee Grainer.

15:06:41 19 CITIZEN SCHWANK: Thomas Schwank, 2424
15:06:43 20 Barracks. Thank you.

15:06:45 21 First of all, let's none of us who fill this
15:06:48 22 chamber today say this is not very important. Because a
15:06:52 23 monument is not a history book. No nuance or knowledge
15:06:56 24 of the past can be transmitted. The monument serves as
15:07:00 25 the city's way of showing us and the world what it holds

15:07:03 1 most dear.

15:07:05 2 These monuments served as symbols, so what
15:07:08 3 do these men symbolize? We cannot deny that these
15:07:12 4 southern states, that our state, seceded from the Union
15:07:17 5 to protect and maintain slavery. So for all their human
15:07:20 6 complexity, these men still, to us now, represent that
15:07:24 7 defense of slavery. And we cannot allow them to
15:07:27 8 continue their hold over our public spaces without
15:07:31 9 ratifying this defense, without asserting that we, too,
15:07:34 10 would have enslaved each other and reduced the humanity
15:07:38 11 of our fellow man and all of ourselves to chattel.
15:07:42 12 Thank you.

15:07:43 13 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

15:07:44 14 (APPLAUSE)

15:07:45 15 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Aimee Grainer. Followed
15:07:47 16 by Holly Reid.

15:07:51 17 CITIZEN GRAINER: Hi. My name is Aimee
15:07:52 18 Grainer. I live at 8232 Mandeville.

15:07:56 19 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Welcome.

15:07:57 20 CITIZEN GRAINER: Thank you.

15:07:58 21 As some of our guests have alluded to, not
15:08:02 22 all acts of war are noble and not all acts of war merit
15:08:06 23 celebration. There is an erroneous suggestion that a
15:08:10 24 monument must be maintained in order to preserve the
15:08:12 25 memory of those who fought or those who died, but we are

15:08:15 1 living the memory of the Civil War every day. The
15:08:18 2 memory of the systematic enslavement and dehumanization
15:08:22 3 of African-Americans is a specter that haunts each of us
15:08:27 4 daily, and taking these monuments down will not erase
15:08:31 5 it. What it will do is express that American slavery is
15:08:34 6 a crime against humanity that is reprehensible and
15:08:37 7 should not be allowed. Thank you.

15:08:39 8 (APPLAUSE)

15:08:39 9 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you for your time.

15:08:41 10 Holly Reid. Followed by, it looks like
15:08:41 11 Troave Profice.

15:08:53 12 CITIZEN REID: Thank you. My name is Holly
15:08:54 13 Reid and I live at 1315 Peniston Street.

15:08:57 14 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

15:08:58 15 CITIZEN REID: I know that each of these
15:08:59 16 monuments hold a variety of meaning for different New
15:09:03 17 Orleanians. And I although I don't believe it's the job
15:09:05 18 of the government to make sure that every single New
15:09:08 19 Orleanian likes or appreciates every public space or
15:09:11 20 every statues or monument, I do believe that it is the
15:09:14 21 job of the city government to ensure that public
15:09:17 22 property, including statues and monuments, align with
15:09:20 23 the values and beliefs of the majority of our city. In
15:09:23 24 New Orleans, where our city is 60 percent
15:09:26 25 African-American, I believe that these monuments and

15:09:30 1 statues that represent the etiology of white supremacy
15:09:33 2 and slavery and subjugation of African-Americans cannot
15:09:37 3 in any way reflect the values of the majority of this
15:09:40 4 population. And, because of this, I'm in support of
15:09:43 5 removing these monuments. Thank you.

15:09:45 6 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you for your time.
15:09:50 7 Troave Profice. I know I'm mispronouncing
15:09:54 8 it. It's T-R-O-A-V-E.

15:10:00 9 CITIZEN PROFICE: No comment.

15:10:00 10 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: No comment. Thank you.
15:10:01 11 Angela Kinlaw. Followed by Jackie
15:10:08 12 Rosenzweig. So we're on Angela Kinlaw. And the next
15:10:11 13 one is going to be Jackie Rosenzweig.

15:10:15 14 CITIZEN KINLAW: Hello. Angela Kinlaw, 8949
15:10:18 15 Jeannette Street.

15:10:18 16 I want to specifically speak about how these
15:10:21 17 four statues named, in addition to the Confederate
15:10:25 18 statues that were unnamed, and the additional statues
15:10:28 19 and monuments throughout the city that do represent
15:10:30 20 racism, are officially public nuisances within the city.

15:10:35 21 The city code, Section 146, indicates that
15:10:39 22 if one of these symbols honors, praises or fosters
15:10:43 23 ideologies that are in conflict with the requirement or
15:10:46 24 the law, then it's considered to be a nuisance. So
15:10:49 25 whether or not we're talking about the emancipation

15:10:53 1 proclamation, whether we're talking about the 13th
15:10:55 2 Amendment or talking about the overall understanding
15:10:58 3 that slavery has been abolished, these folks run in
15:11:01 4 conflict with that because they defended slavery, which
15:11:04 5 is abolished by the law. Number one. So that makes it
15:11:08 6 a public nuisance.

15:11:09 7 Number two, the whole idea of praising those
15:11:11 8 who participated in the killing of public employees, we
15:11:14 9 should minimally be concerned with the police officers
15:11:18 10 that lost their lives as a result directly for the
15:11:21 11 Battle of Liberty. We should care about the fact that,
15:11:23 12 according to this particular code, we have already had
15:11:27 13 people who have been killed. Public nuisance.

15:11:29 14 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: I'm sorry.

15:11:30 15 CITIZEN KINLAW: We also want to make sure
15:11:31 16 that we don't confuse --

15:11:32 17 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: I'm sorry --

15:11:34 18 CITIZEN KINLAW: -- removal with
15:11:35 19 replacement. They can be removed immediately and we've
15:11:39 20 given them more than enough reasons. Thank you.

15:11:45 21 (CROWD OUTBURST)

15:11:45 22 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Angela Kimlaw.

15:11:52 23 Jackie Rosenzweig. I know you'll say it the
15:11:56 24 correct way and that will be fine.

15:11:59 25 CITIZEN ROZENZWEIG: Jacob Rozenzweig.

15:12:01 1 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: I got that one wrong. I
15:12:04 2 apologize.

15:12:04 3 Go ahead, please. State your name and
15:12:07 4 address.

15:12:08 5 CITIZEN ROZENZWEIG: Jason Rozenzweig, 1811
15:12:10 6 Jackson Avenue.

15:12:11 7 I'll keep this short because others have, I
15:12:14 8 believe, said it better than I can. I just want to be
15:12:16 9 on the record as yet another white person who is in
15:12:20 10 favor of the monuments coming down. There is a growing
15:12:23 11 movement in this city of whites working to end white
15:12:26 12 supremacy and to relinquish white privilege and to work
15:12:28 13 against racism and discrimination. Thanks.

15:12:33 14 (APPLAUSE)

15:12:34 15 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thanks for your time.

15:12:38 16 Next, we have the Reverend Raymond Brown.
15:12:44 17 That's going to be followed by Donald Chopin.

15:12:52 18 CITIZEN BROWN: Thank you. Reverend Raymond
15:12:56 19 Brown, president of National Action Now, civil
15:12:58 20 organization.

15:13:01 21 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Reverend, could you state
15:13:02 22 your address, please.

15:13:03 23 CITIZEN BROWN: Well, I don't want to,
15:13:04 24 because I've got some threats over the Internet.

15:13:07 25 You want me do it?

15:13:09 1 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Yes.

15:13:10 2 CITIZEN BROWN: I've got some threats on

15:13:11 3 Facebook against me right now. If I give my address --

15:13:14 4 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: You have to give your

15:13:16 5 address. It's the law. I'm sorry.

15:13:19 6 CITIZEN BROWN: New Orleans, Louisiana.

15:13:22 7 Sir, you don't know me. I got some threats

15:13:25 8 against me right now on Facebook.

15:13:27 9 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Go ahead, please.

15:13:28 10 CITIZEN BROWN: Okay. Thank you.

15:13:30 11 You know, but anyway, first of all, we burnt

15:13:36 12 the flag in front of the Robert E. Lee statue, the

15:13:39 13 Confederate flag. The citizens of the New Orleans are

15:13:44 14 tired and sick and tired of the racial polarization in

15:13:49 15 our nation.

15:13:52 16 The question is, when we take down the

15:13:54 17 monument of Robert E. Lee, are you going to also bring

15:14:00 18 down the unemployment rate in the black community? Are

15:14:05 19 you going to deal with the high incarceration rate in

15:14:10 20 our nation? So both of it is being aided and abetted by

15:14:14 21 white supremacy. So, while we remove the monuments,

15:14:19 22 we've got to be asking for we want to you to remove the

15:14:23 23 massive killing of black folks in the city of New

15:14:25 24 Orleans and remove police brutality that have taken

15:14:30 25 ahold of our community.

15:14:31 1 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Your time is up. Thank
15:14:33 2 you for your time.

15:14:34 3 Donald Chopin, followed by Will Bradshaw.

15:14:46 4 CITIZEN CHOPIN: Donald Chopin, 18
15:14:51 5 Fountainbleu.

15:14:51 6 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Welcome.

15:14:51 7 CITIZEN CHOPIN: Thank you.

15:14:52 8 My comment is twofold.

15:14:54 9 First and foremost, the monuments and
15:14:56 10 statues are more powerful and more important than words,
15:15:00 11 they are symbols. Symbols represent whole paragraphs.

15:15:04 12 Secondly, of course you should move the
15:15:07 13 monument, but also you should go beyond moving that
15:15:10 14 monument. Going beyond means recognizing that the
15:15:13 15 slavery mentality and the economic inequality those
15:15:20 16 statues represent is alive and well. You should focus
15:15:23 17 on doing that. You should focus on having community
15:15:26 18 benefit agreements with all contractors and all
15:15:28 19 businesses where they put the indigenous New Orleans
15:15:32 20 community first in all of their plans. And if it
15:15:36 21 doesn't benefit the community, it shouldn't be there.
15:15:38 22 That's what should be in conjunction with the statues'
15:15:42 23 removal. If not, what you have is a tourist plot.
15:15:48 24 Simply, a tourist plot, to keep those folks here and
15:15:52 25 bring more folks here.

15:15:54 1 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

15:15:55 2 Will Bradshaw. Followed by I-A-M

15:16:01 3 T-U-C-A-G-K, it looks like.

15:16:03 4 Go ahead, please.

15:16:04 5 CITIZEN BRADSHAW: My name is Will Bradshaw,

15:16:05 6 I live at 3354 Dumaine. Thank you for the opportunity

15:16:10 7 to speak today.

15:16:12 8 I want to start by just saying that I

15:16:14 9 generally agree with much of what we've already heard

15:16:18 10 this afternoon, but I'd like to take a slightly

15:16:20 11 different angle at this issue.

15:16:23 12 I'm a business owner in this city. My

15:16:26 13 business is principally focused on the development of

15:16:29 14 many of the historical architectural assets we have

15:16:32 15 throughout the city. And it is in that light that I'd

15:16:36 16 like to speak in favor of removal of these statues.

15:16:41 17 They are on our collective doorstep. And if

15:16:45 18 they represented the things that we hold dear as a

15:16:48 19 community, we wouldn't have such a divisive conversation

15:16:51 20 about this. And we can do better with what we present

15:16:54 21 to the world about who we are than to have four

15:16:58 22 Confederate monuments that are at some of the most

15:17:02 23 prominent locations in the city of the New Orleans.

15:17:04 24 So thank you for your consideration on this

15:17:06 25 issue, and I hope that you will take these down.

15:17:09 1 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you for your time.

15:17:13 2 Iam -- it looks like T-U-C-A -- you can
15:17:20 3 say it correctly.

15:17:21 4 CITIZEN TUCKER: You got the hard part
15:17:24 5 right. I am Iam Tucker, T-U-C-K-E-R, 957 Harrison
15:17:28 6 Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana.

15:17:29 7 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

15:17:30 8 CITIZEN TUCKER: First of all, I'd like to
15:17:31 9 say thank you to ya'll for taking this under
15:17:33 10 consideration. I think it's a little bit ridiculous to
15:17:36 11 even consider it and talk about it at this point.

15:17:39 12 These statues are a serious, serious sign
15:17:41 13 and symbol of oppression. I love what the gentleman
15:17:45 14 behind me just said about a symbol can be a paragraph.
15:17:49 15 It says much more.

15:17:51 16 If not now, then when? It's the worst time
15:17:55 17 for racial relations in our country probably since my
15:17:58 18 dad was a kid, and it's even worse in New Orleans. New
15:18:02 19 Orleans has had a lot of signs and symbols of
15:18:06 20 institutional racism that still prevails today.

15:18:10 21 So, please, think about the fact that if you
15:18:13 22 don't do this and the opportunity that you have today,
15:18:17 23 are you going to be on the right side of history? Is it
15:18:21 24 going to look good for you later on? If not now, then
15:18:25 25 when? It's past time. It's ridiculous. Hate has no

15:18:29 1 place in New Orleans, in one of the most cultural cities
15:18:32 2 in not only the nation but the world. It's time to take
15:18:35 3 the statues down.

15:18:36 4 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: I'm sorry but your time
15:18:37 5 is up.

15:18:41 6 CITIZEN TUCKER: Thank you.

15:18:41 7 (APPLAUSE)

15:18:41 8 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Christine Brown.

15:18:55 9 CITIZEN BROWN: See freedom, 623 E Street.

15:18:58 10 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Welcome.

15:19:01 11 CITIZEN BROWN: My name is See Freedom and I
15:19:03 12 have a business in New Orleans. And I'm also a teaching
15:19:09 13 artist and I'm a visual artist and a visual learner as
15:19:14 14 well. And a lot of my students are visual learners.
15:19:16 15 And this is a public nuisance because it's not allowing
15:19:18 16 me to teach the lesson that black life matters in New
15:19:23 17 Orleans or in America. It's not reflecting that black
15:19:25 18 lives matter to my son and to my future grandchildren.
15:19:28 19 So I need these statues removed A-SAP and not to be
15:19:33 20 replaced somewhere but to be torn down. And we can
15:19:37 21 replace them, and I have a line of artists and
15:19:40 22 sculptures in the black community that can benefit from
15:19:42 23 this economically as well. And this will be a place of
15:19:46 24 unity in New Orleans.

15:19:48 25 (APPLAUSE)

15:19:48 1 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you for your time.

15:19:52 2 That concludes the remarks -- that concludes

15:19:54 3 the remarks of the people in favor of removing the

15:19:56 4 monuments. Now we're going to begin the remarks of the

15:19:59 5 people that are in favor of maintaining the monuments

15:20:02 6 where they now exist.

15:20:04 7 I'm waiting for the cards to come to me;

15:20:07 8 and, as soon as they come to me, I'll call the first

15:20:10 9 one.

15:20:11 10 The same rules apply.

15:20:13 11 The first card is a Louisiana Landmark

15:20:16 12 Society.

15:20:34 13 CITIZEN LUCAS: Good afternoon. James

15:20:35 14 Logan, Louisiana Landmarks Society, 1440 Moss Street,

15:20:35 15 New Orleans.

15:20:36 16 The Landmarks Society believes that the

15:20:39 17 monuments should be preserved as artifacts of the New

15:20:41 18 Orleans rich historic environment. The fact that the

15:20:45 19 statues and monuments were put up 100 or more years ago

15:20:48 20 and still bring to mind persons and events, which now

15:20:51 21 viewed differently from the contemporary historic

15:20:51 22 perspective does not rob them of their legitimacy as

15:20:51 23 historic businesses. Monuments serve as historic

15:21:02 24 mileposts which mark the evolution of a diverse city and

15:21:04 25 mature culture that through the years and how our

15:21:07 1 ancestors, right or wrongly, experienced a set of values
15:21:10 2 at another time. Monuments continue to hold value today
15:21:13 3 through their ability to remind, explain and teach.

15:21:17 4 You've been provided with a transcript of a
15:21:23 5 distinguished university history professor who recently
15:21:23 6 addressed the very complex issue of what monuments can
15:21:26 7 mean today. We find it compelling that none of these
15:21:29 8 accomplished historians recommended the wholesale
15:21:31 9 removal of any monuments. Instead, they all called for
15:21:35 10 a reinterpretation, developing and expanded contextual
15:21:40 11 narrative, accepting the monuments as part of a cultural
15:21:43 12 historical time --

15:21:45 13 A SPECTATOR: Time is up, buddy.

15:21:47 14 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: I'm sorry, your time is
15:21:48 15 up.

15:21:49 16 CITIZEN LUCAS: -- adding rather than
15:21:51 17 removing. Thank you.

15:21:53 18 (APPLAUSE)

15:21:54 19 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: I'll inform you again:
15:21:57 20 No applause, no public displays.

15:22:02 21 In addition, for all of those people that
15:22:06 22 sent in email comments or sent letters two days before
15:22:13 23 the public deadline, those public letters are in the
15:22:18 24 commission stack of letters. So we got those several
15:22:20 25 days ago, and so we've all had a chance to read those

15:22:24 1 those public comments and those public letters that were
15:22:27 2 sent in by the deadline.

15:22:30 3 The next speaker is Toni Christopher,
15:22:32 4 followed by Johnny Bland.

15:22:41 5 State your name and address for the record.

15:22:43 6 CITIZEN CHRISTOPHER: Toni Christopher, 1661
15:22:43 7 Opelousas Street.

15:22:48 8 I think it was decided in the 1930s, when
15:22:52 9 the Federal government declared these individual were US
15:22:56 10 veterans, along with all other Confederate soldiers,
15:22:59 11 that these people were not nuisances.

15:23:01 12 I think, if this is a nuisance because
15:23:03 13 people are vandalizing the statues, that statues should
15:23:06 14 be protected by cameras because it's against the law.

15:23:10 15 Also, I am an artist. And I would like
15:23:13 16 to suggest that around Lee Circle the plaques be changed
15:23:20 17 -- this makes me nervous -- the plaques be changed. The
15:23:24 18 plaques changed for him. He did change their attitude
15:23:28 19 after the war. And that statues should be placed all
15:23:31 20 around the circle. And, for instance, a white child
15:23:33 21 with a bucket and another one with a snorkel and a
15:23:37 22 plaque that says: Racist closed our beaches.

15:23:41 23 I've marched with Reverend Al Sharpton. I
15:23:45 24 am not a racist. But removing these statues removes
15:23:49 25 history, which is a chronicle of what has happened in

15:23:52 1 all of our lives.

15:23:53 2 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

15:23:53 3 CITIZEN CHRISTOPHER: And the history of our
15:23:56 4 ancestors.

15:23:59 5 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you for your time.

15:24:00 6 CITIZEN CHRISTOPHER: Thank you.

15:24:00 7 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: John Brink. Followed by
15:24:00 8 Gary Mason.

15:24:00 9 Your name.

15:24:03 10 CITIZEN BRINK: Hello. I'm John Brink. I
15:24:03 11 live at 102 Creek Metairie Place. I'm here as
15:24:07 12 representation from the Monumental Task Committee.

15:24:13 13 I'm going to start from the perspective of
15:24:16 14 teaching or preaching history, the value of history to
15:24:19 15 the historical landmark society. The main reason we're
15:24:24 16 against removal or relocation is a historical
15:24:26 17 perspective. Additionally, as someone once stated
15:24:30 18 earlier, that history, by telling or by hearing or
15:24:34 19 reading, is not the same as seeing or physically being
15:24:39 20 able to grasp it, and that's what these monuments
15:24:41 21 provide. People that come to this city, the tourism,
15:24:44 22 the folks that come to New Orleans for any reason, wind
15:24:48 23 up focusing sooner or later on the history of the city
15:24:51 24 of which these monuments are a great part and have been
15:24:53 25 over a 100 years.

15:24:55 1 And another point is removal or relocation
15:24:58 2 of the monuments would represent a bad precedent. We've
15:25:02 3 lost so much history in the city throughout the years
15:25:04 4 from natural causes, from fires and for lack of --

15:25:09 5 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: I'm sorry, your time is
15:25:10 6 up. But thank you for your time.

15:25:14 7 CITIZEN BRINK: Anyway, can we afford to
15:25:14 8 lose any more history. Thank you.

15:25:16 9 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Gary Mason. Followed by
15:25:18 10 Billy Marshal.

15:25:20 11 Go ahead, please.

15:25:21 12 CITIZEN MASON: My name is Gary Mason. I
15:25:23 13 live at 44 Spanish Court Boulevard, New Orleans,
15:25:26 14 Louisiana.

15:25:26 15 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Welcome.

15:25:28 16 CITIZEN MASON: I am a 28-year military
15:25:29 17 veteran. I come here today to talk on behalf of many
15:25:33 18 military friends of mine who asked me to come and give
15:25:36 19 their points of view, most of whom are veterans.

15:25:39 20 We should be very concerned that any
15:25:41 21 monument to a US war veteran is being considered for
15:25:44 22 removal. Lee, Davis and Beauregard were all, by an act
15:25:48 23 of Congress, pardoned to have their citizenship to the
15:25:51 24 United States restored by US presidents. Robert E. Lee,
15:25:54 25 by Gerald Ford in 1976; Jeff Davis by Jimmy Carter in

15:25:58 1 1978, and Beauregard by Ulysses Grant in 1876. All
15:25:58 2 three were highly decorated US war veterans and served
15:26:07 3 the distinction of serving in war and are a part of our
15:26:08 4 culture in Louisiana and American military history.

15:26:12 5 We all know that slavery was wrong. Our
15:26:14 6 history is sometimes painful. It makes us who we are
15:26:17 7 and in order to build a better future. We have other
15:26:19 8 monuments of the US veterans in city: The Vietnam
15:26:22 9 Veterans Memorial by the Superdome. We don't think that
15:26:25 10 should be taken down either because it might offend some
15:26:28 11 of these Americans. Or not we don't think Andrew
15:26:31 12 Jackson should come down because he enslaved people or
15:26:34 13 massacred Indians.

15:26:36 14 (AUDIENCE OUTBURST)

15:26:36 15 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Please keep your comments
15:26:37 16 to yourself.

15:26:38 17 CITIZEN MASON: We don't the World War II
15:26:39 18 museum should be taken down --

15:26:39 19 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Sir, your time is up.

15:26:41 20 CITIZEN MASON: -- because it might offend
15:26:43 21 Japanese or German Americans.

15:26:45 22 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you for your time.

15:26:49 23 CITIZEN MASON: Thank you.

15:26:49 24 (APPLAUSE)

15:26:49 25 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Billy Marshal.

15:26:53 1 Welcome.

15:26:55 2 Please reframe from applause until after.

15:26:59 3 CITIZEN MARSHAL: Billy Marshal, 279 Ogden
15:26:59 4 Boulevard.

15:27:03 5 To quote from Ronald Chapman, Professor of
15:27:05 6 History at Nunez Community College: To deny the past,
7 to purge all evidence of unpopular events, serves to
8 sever new generations from the lessons of the past.

9
10 Monuments should never be destroyed or removed. That is
11 an expression of ignorance and anti-intellectualism at
12 its worst, like book banning and burning. Civilized
13 communities do not suppress of that which they
14 disapprove. However, plaques placing these symbols in
15 historical perspective can be of value. That would
16 serve to make these symbols of the past instructional
17 while maintaining the rich and diverse cultural heritage
18 of our city, warts and all.

15:27:31 19 The Lee and Beauregard statues are a
15:27:34 20 national monument, and its importance as such is
15:27:37 21 recognized by two black administrations. In 1991, the
15:27:44 22 Morial administration placed the Lee memorial on the
15:27:46 23 National Historic Registry. In 1998, Mayor Sidney
15:27:52 24 Bartholomew's administration placed the Beauregard
15:27:56 25 monument on the National Historic Registry. I hate to

15:28:00 1 think that changing administration can change our
15:28:04 2 history. In doing so, the city agrees with the vision
15:28:06 3 of the National Historic Registry --

15:28:09 4 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: I'm sorry, sir, your time
15:28:11 5 is up.

15:28:13 6 We have John Belan, B-E-L-A-N. Belan.

15:28:18 7 And it's to be followed by Charles Nunez.

15:28:22 8 CITIZEN BELSON: John Belson, 721 Barrack
15:28:22 9 Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.

15:28:26 10 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thanks for coming.

15:28:27 11 CITIZEN BELSON: There are many nuisances
15:28:28 12 that can be listed, and some of them have been:
15:28:32 13 Homeless living under the bridge overpasses, the people
15:28:37 14 sleeping in the middle of Basin Street, opposite the St.
15:28:44 15 Louis Cemetery, many serious nuances. But the statues
15:28:47 16 that have been here for 100 years or more are not
15:28:50 17 nuisances. Nor are they responsible for some of the
15:28:53 18 things that we see going on, such as the almost massacre
15:28:55 19 of citizens on St. Bernard Avenue several years ago in
15:28:59 20 the middle of a second line parade or the killings and
15:29:02 21 the shootings that go on daily in the city.

15:29:05 22 The 300 year history of the city is complex
15:29:09 23 and unique, as all the relations of its citizens. But
15:29:12 24 if we are able to find the peace that it deserves, we
15:29:15 25 should do so not by continuing to revisit the ideas and

15:29:19 1 feelings of a century ago, but rather to move ahead,
15:29:21 2 dealing with real and serious problems, rather than
15:29:24 3 imaged nuisances. Thank you very much.

15:29:27 4 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thanks for your time.

15:29:29 5 Charles Nunez. And that's going to be
15:29:33 6 followed by Ryan Lee Walter.

15:29:39 7 Go ahead, please.

15:29:39 8 CITIZEN NUNEZ: Hi. I'm Charles Nunez. My
15:29:41 9 address is 3537 Thomas Drive in Metairie. I'm a native
15:29:47 10 of the 7th Ward.

15:29:48 11 I've spent most of my 60-plus years reading
15:29:51 12 about US history, and I've morphed into something of a
15:29:55 13 tour guide. I will tell you that there are military
15:29:57 14 groups and people who love US history who come here all
15:30:01 15 the time. They're not coming here for the Tomato
15:30:04 16 Festival and they're not coming for Jazz Fest, although
15:30:08 17 those are all worthy things.

15:30:11 18 But this is a council of military past, made
15:30:14 19 up of military people. I was the tour guide a year ago.

15:30:17 20 This is the American Civil War Roundtable of
15:30:21 21 the United Civil Kingdom. I was their tour guide a year
15:30:24 22 ago.

15:30:24 23 This is the American Historical Association.
15:30:27 24 I was their tour guide.

15:30:28 25 And this is the Confederate Historical

15:30:30 1 Association of Belgium, which comes here every five
15:30:34 2 years to tour the city and look at Civil War monuments.

15:30:37 3 And, finally, the historical inaccuracies
15:30:40 4 I've heard today are unbelievable. Jefferson Davis was
15:30:43 5 not born in Mississippi, he was born in Kentucky. And
15:30:45 6 the Liberty Place monument is not a Confederate
15:30:49 7 monument, it's a Reconstruction era monument.

15:30:53 8 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you for your time.

15:30:54 9 (APPLAUSE)

15:30:57 10 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Ryan Lee Waldren,
15:30:59 11 followed by Michael Antoine Nichols.

15:31:06 12 CITIZEN WALDREN: Hi. My name is Ryan Lee
15:31:08 13 Waldren. I live at 1423 Cadiz Street, New Orleans,
15:31:12 14 Louisiana. I'm a profession engineer, licensed by the
15:31:15 15 state of Louisiana, among others.

15:31:17 16 And I wanted to mention that removing these
15:31:20 17 monuments, it will not achieve a common good, and it
15:31:25 18 will come at an extremely high cost, both emotionally
15:31:27 19 and financially. The cost for removing these
15:31:29 20 monuments -- I have a quote here from a contractor --
15:31:33 21 removing just the monuments, not the foundations, and
15:31:36 22 storing them for a single month, would be \$1,009,697, at
15:31:43 23 least. That wouldn't include any foundations. That
15:31:46 24 wouldn't include relocation to a permanent location.
15:31:51 25 This would just be for disassembling the monuments and

15:31:54 1 storing them for a single month. It's a cost the city
15:31:57 2 can't afford, and it isn't worth the high price tag it
15:32:01 3 would carry. Thank you.

15:32:02 4 (APPLAUSE)

15:32:02 5 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you for your time.
15:32:05 6 Antoine Michael.

15:32:07 7 CITIZEN MICHAEL: My name is Antoine
15:32:07 8 Michael. I am a descendant of General Beauregard; a
15:32:13 9 citizen of New Orleans. I was not born here but came
15:32:15 10 here because my family, our family, has been here since
15:32:20 11 1698. And I find it offensive that you're telling me
15:32:24 12 that I'm a racist because I love my ancestors. Excuse
15:32:29 13 me, but all of these fathers --

15:32:32 14 (APPLAUSE)

15:32:33 15 CITIZEN MICHAEL: -- of the Confederacy that
15:32:34 16 we're speaking of have speeches that are recorded where
15:32:38 17 they spoke about the necessity of the liberation of
15:32:42 18 slaves, in time, but not at the expense of them from the
15:32:46 19 North coming and forcing it upon us. Stealing the
15:32:50 20 prosperity of the South and taking it to the North.
15:32:52 21 They saw it as an economic war. And they knew that
15:32:57 22 slavery was something that had to die, and they all
15:33:00 23 spoke about it.

15:33:01 24 The slave of General Robert E. Lee spoke at
15:33:05 25 his eulogy, and he said: I never knew a more noble man

15:33:09 1 than General Robert E. Lee, who freed all of his sleeves
15:33:13 2 ten years before the Civil War and spoke and defended
15:33:18 3 the rights of blacks.

15:33:19 4 We're ignorant of our history, and we're
15:33:21 5 trying to destroy history?

15:33:23 6 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: I'm sorry, your time is
15:33:24 7 up.

15:33:26 8 (APPLAUSE)

15:33:27 9 THE MODERATOR: Wait for your applause until
15:33:28 10 the last. Thank you.

15:33:29 11 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: We have -- I have Tim
15:33:32 12 Carol next, followed by Jeffrey Guise. Tim Carol.

15:33:42 13 CITIZEN CAROL: Timothy Carol, 28 Park Place
15:33:44 14 Drive. I'm with an organization called Save Our Circle.

15:33:49 15 And one second. I messed up my notes.

15:33:55 16 We're all here today because of these
15:33:57 17 monuments. They have all brought us together. There is
15:33:59 18 no reason we cannot continue this conversation into the
15:34:03 19 future.

15:34:05 20 Every second of every day that we spend
15:34:08 21 makes us up who we are. Every scar, every birthmark
15:34:13 22 that we have on our body, is from our past. We need to
15:34:21 23 continue to teach all history.

15:34:24 24 If we remove these monuments, they are
15:34:27 25 removing the markers of history. Whether they are right

15:34:30 1 or whether they are wrong is not the point; they are a
15:34:33 2 teaching point.

15:34:35 3 This issue is no longer an issue of New
15:34:39 4 Orleans. This has become a national issue. If we do
15:34:43 5 not act today, we will not have a ripple effect across
15:34:48 6 the county, it will be a tsunami effect. Every sacred
15:34:53 7 symbol that everybody holds dear, if it is deemed
15:34:56 8 offensive by anyone, is subject to be removed.

15:34:59 9 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Your time is up.

15:35:00 10 CITIZEN CAROL: I have a petition here of
15:35:02 11 28,300 people across the country that I'd like to submit
15:35:06 12 to the committee.

15:35:07 13 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: It is submitted.

15:35:12 14 CITIZEN CAROL: This is across the country,
15:35:12 15 28,300 people.

15:35:15 16 (APPLAUSE)

15:35:15 17 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: We have Jeffrey Guise
15:35:18 18 next. Followed by Richard Marksbury.

15:35:21 19 CITIZEN GUISE: I'm Jeffrey Guise. Thank
15:35:23 20 you, Commissioners and Chairman and fellow New
15:35:27 21 Orleanians. And thank you to all the members of the
15:35:29 22 Armed Service that are here today and the New Orleans
15:35:32 23 police officers.

15:35:32 24 I'm chairman of the Louisiana Film Museum.
15:35:35 25 I am also a current member of the Louisiana Safe Museum

15:35:39 1 Board. And I'm also director and producer of the Battle
15:35:42 2 of New Orleans, a 2015 Bicentennial documentary.

15:35:46 3 I've been working since 1979, very
15:35:49 4 proudly, with Southern Poverty Law Center. I believe in
15:35:53 5 inclusion, not exclusion. I believe that we should
15:35:56 6 actually erect new statues to honor Native Americans and
15:36:00 7 African-Americans. I believe in preservation, not
15:36:02 8 destruction. What we're talking about today is
15:36:05 9 controlled destruction. It's no different from
15:36:07 10 Ferguson, except it's controlled by you people. And
15:36:11 11 that's something that I think we need to get away from.
15:36:13 12 Thank you.

15:36:14 13 (APPLAUSE)

15:36:14 14 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you for your time.

15:36:17 15 Richard Marksbury. Followed by Gasper
15:36:21 16 Spiro.

15:36:25 17 CITIZEN MARKSBURY: My name is Richard
15:36:26 18 Marksbury. I live at 8131 Birch Street.

15:36:30 19 Changing my request to focus on the nuisance
15:36:33 20 ordinance, if the whole country had the nuisance
15:36:33 21 ordinance and followed New Orleans and removed their
15:36:40 22 monuments, there would be no monument in the United
15:36:43 23 States of America. That's just the case.

15:36:44 24 The richest man to ever serve as president
15:36:44 25 of the United States was George Washington, who in

15:36:48 1 today's dollars would be worth \$565 million, owned 300
15:36:52 2 slaves. Number two would be Thomas Jefferson, who today
15:36:54 3 would be worth \$265 million, owned 180 slaves. Number
15:36:57 4 four, Andrew Jackson, \$118 million and 120 slaves.
15:37:02 5 These men were presidents. They could do something
15:37:04 6 about it, and they chose not to.

15:37:06 7 The people we're talking about today fought
15:37:08 8 a war. They lost. The only difference is that some are
15:37:11 9 presidents and others are not. So we honor our
15:37:13 10 presidents throughout this country. Andrew Jackson, we
15:37:16 11 Honor. We don't take it down.

15:37:17 12 I don't hear anybody here who is a Native
15:37:21 13 American who is speaking as a resident of this city that
15:37:24 14 is saying Andrew Jackson should come down, too. But our
15:37:26 15 mayor wouldn't want that to happen because it would
15:37:29 16 effect the Tri-Centennial celebration. It's a path that
15:37:33 17 we shouldn't go down. We should add to, we should
15:37:36 18 educate. Thank you.

15:37:36 19 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

15:37:39 20 Casper Ciro, followed by Bill Wedgemore.

15:37:43 21 CITIZEN CIRO: I am Casper Ciro, 102030
15:37:46 22 Harding Drive. I'm president of the Orleans Parish
15:37:50 23 Landmark Commission. I wanted to say a few things here
15:37:56 24 that you have not heard.

15:37:58 25 Number one, about the living monument, that

15:38:03 1 matter is settled. It was settled by a federal court --
15:38:07 2 or it went to federal court, and the court ruled that
15:38:09 3 the monument had to be within one block of the Battle of
15:38:14 4 New Orleans, The Battle of New Orleans of the
15:38:20 5 Carpetbaggers. So that matter has already been to
15:38:22 6 federal court and already settled. The judge said it
15:38:27 7 had to be within one block of the original battle site.
15:38:32 8 All right?

15:38:34 9 Now, as far as General Beauregard, General
15:38:39 10 Beauregard -- and the news media ought to hear this --
15:38:42 11 General Beauregard never owned a slave. Never owned a
15:38:46 12 slave. General Beauregard was an American hero in the
15:38:52 13 Mexican War, and General Beauregard --

15:38:55 14 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Mr. Ciro, your time is
15:38:55 15 up.

15:39:01 16 CITIZEN CIRO: One other thing. After the
15:39:03 17 war, he registered black and white voters for
15:39:05 18 reconciliation --

15:39:12 19 A SPECTATOR: Your time is up.

15:39:15 20 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Wait.

15:39:17 21 A SPECTATOR: Everybody been respecting the
15:39:19 22 mic.

15:39:20 23 A SPECTATOR: No. She haven't.

15:39:21 24 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: The next is Bill Laden,
15:39:22 25 followed by --

15:39:23 1 CITIZEN WAYMIRE: My name is William P.
15:39:26 2 Waymire, Junior, Captain, Retired, United States Marine
15:39:29 3 Corps, and I live at 40118 Drivers Lane, Gonzalez,
15:39:35 4 Louisiana. And I represent myself as a Louisiana native
15:39:37 5 and from Baton Rouge, and my wife, who is a native of
15:39:41 6 the great city of New Orleans.

15:39:43 7 We have to look at three things here. The
15:39:45 8 engineer that was up a few monuments ago mentioned it.
15:39:49 9 That's the how and who is going to pay for it. But we
15:39:52 10 have to look at the why, the how and the where.

15:39:55 11 If these statues -- and, by the way, I have
15:39:59 12 more explained me than me on keeping the statues.
15:40:03 13 Liberty Place, anybody want to move it out, I'll take
15:40:05 14 it. I had a hard enough time learning that in Louisiana
15:40:08 15 history in 8th grade anyways. And General Longstreet
15:40:11 16 put it down. So let it go.

15:40:13 17 Now -- by the way, can we ask this young
15:40:16 18 women in her heart to move, please? Thank you. I don't
15:40:20 19 have to wear my heart. I believe in the Civil Rights
15:40:23 20 Act of 1964.

15:40:24 21 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Sir, stop for a second so
15:40:26 22 we can get this cleared up.

15:40:27 23 Please don't stand in front of the audience.
15:40:30 24 Thank you.

15:40:33 25 CITIZEN WAYMEYER: Where I was was the

15:40:34 1 where, the how and the why.

15:40:37 2 The why, as other members have said for
15:40:39 3 removal or destroy the statues, referenced the murder in
15:40:45 4 the church in Charleston, South Carolina. A heinous
15:40:48 5 act. Any murder is. But it wasn't anything that
15:40:52 6 Confederates did. The Confederacy has been gone.
15:40:55 7 Nothing that the --

15:40:56 8 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: I'm sorry, sir, your time
15:40:58 9 is up.

15:40:59 10 CITIZEN WAYMEYER: My time was interrupted.

15:41:01 11 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: I added that in.

15:41:02 12 CITIZEN WAYMEYER: Engineers --

15:41:04 13 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Sir, sir --

15:41:05 14 CITIZEN WAYMEYER: -- and we have to stand
15:41:06 15 by our history.

15:41:07 16 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Your time is up.

15:41:08 17 CITIZEN WAYMEYER: Other people are shouting
15:41:11 18 here, almost obscenities, talking about hangings.

15:41:16 19 (CROWD OUTBURST)

15:41:16 20 A SPECTATOR: Your time is up.

15:41:19 21 A SPECTATOR: Take them down, take them
15:41:20 22 down.

15:41:21 23 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Kenneth Cook. Followed
15:41:23 24 by Kimmie Harden.

15:41:27 25 Kenneth Cook. Is Kenneth Cook present?

15:41:42 1 A SPECTATOR: Can she be removed?

15:41:47 2 A SPECTATOR: That woman is a distraction.

15:41:49 3 She's causing trouble.

15:41:52 4 A SPECTATOR: You all shouting out right

15:41:54 5 now.

15:41:54 6 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Security. Will security

15:41:57 7 make sure that there's a good forum in the auditorium.

15:42:05 8 A SPECTATOR: She's not bothering anybody.

15:42:09 9 A SPECTATOR: Yes, she is.

15:42:10 10 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: We're not going to

15:42:11 11 continue the meeting until there is decorum in the

15:42:16 12 auditorium.

15:42:17 13 Would the young woman sit down until -- I'm

15:42:25 14 asking you, as the chairman of the committee, for you to

15:42:28 15 sit down.

15:42:33 16 Okay. I'm sorry, sir. Please continue.

15:42:37 17 You may make your comments now.

15:42:39 18 CITIZEN COOK: Kenneth Cook, 1815 St. Claude

15:42:42 19 Avenue in New Orleans.

15:42:42 20 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

15:42:44 21 CITIZEN COOK: I have been listening to both

15:42:45 22 sides. There are definitely -- it is a two-sided thing.

15:42:51 23 I'm not a racist at all. But I've never looked at these

15:42:58 24 statues as anything other than a time that has passed,

15:43:06 25 and it speaks of their history. Not good. Not a good

15:43:09 1 history, but it is our history. And to remove them is
15:43:14 2 to erase history. That is not good.

15:43:21 3 The statues aren't doing anything; it's
15:43:26 4 our interpretation of them that is the problem. And
15:43:30 5 maybe those of us who think one way or the other should
15:43:36 6 consider that it can be both ways, it's good, it's bad.
15:43:40 7 But it's our history, and to remove it would be wrong.
15:43:44 8 Thank you.

15:43:44 9 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you for your time.

15:43:47 10 Kenny Hartman, followed by Linda Harvey.

15:43:52 11 MR. HARTMAN: Kenny Hartman, 2658 Mercedes
15:43:56 12 Boulevard, Algiers.

15:43:59 13 I would like to say, first of all, that any
15:44:02 14 history lost will be repeated. And the removal of the
15:44:09 15 statues, all of them, which are most of them, are all
15:44:15 16 artfully done by famous sculptors and other things.

15:44:23 17 From the tourist standpoint, that I've
15:44:29 18 worked for several tourist companies, the first thing
15:44:31 19 that they want to see, believe it or not, is the Robert
15:44:34 20 E. Lee statue and not Jackson Square.

15:44:37 21 The other fundamentals that are going on
15:44:39 22 here is this black and white thing, which people don't
15:44:48 23 know their history apparently. Robert E. Lee was first
15:44:54 24 appointed by Abraham Lincoln to serve the Union as his
15:44:58 25 commander-in-chief.

15:45:00 1 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Your time is up, sir.

15:45:02 2 CITIZEN HARTMAN: Okay.

15:45:02 3 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: We have Linda Hartman,
15:45:04 4 followed by Bill Carol.

15:45:08 5 CITIZEN HARTMAN: Hi. I'm Linda Hartman,
15:43:54 6 2658 Mercedes.

15:45:17 7 (Inaudible)

15:45:17 8 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Please speak into the
15:45:17 9 microphone.

15:45:20 10 CITIZEN HARTMAN: The division in this town,
15:45:21 11 New Orleans was built, Treme was built on a plantation
15:45:25 12 that owned slaves. So New Orleans is a city that was
15:45:29 13 built with a lot of history. You start taking these
15:45:32 14 monuments down, we just going to become another city
15:45:36 15 that -- just another broken-down city, with a high crime
15:45:40 16 rate. We need to preserve the history, build up more
15:45:44 17 monuments.

15:45:45 18 I have, hypothetically, a question. What is
15:45:49 19 so hypocrite that you want to tear down these monuments
15:45:53 20 or remove them, and then in the same breath they talking
15:45:56 21 about building a slave ship museum? One balances out
15:46:00 22 the other. You can't take down these monuments and
15:46:03 23 remove them and then put up the slave ship. You have to
15:46:06 24 keep history in balance.

15:46:07 25 I just wish that a lot of people would stop

15:46:10 1 using the past as a racism hatred, because it's not
15:46:14 2 about that. It's heritage.

15:46:16 3 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Your time is up. Thank
15:46:16 4 you.

15:46:18 5 Bill Carol. Followed by E. Slog.

15:46:23 6 MR. CAROL: Good afternoon. I'm Bill Carol,
15:46:25 7 220204 River Park South.

15:46:31 8 First off, I just want to make a statement
15:46:33 9 that I am not a racist. And that I really object to,
15:46:36 10 every time that somebody disagrees with my opinion, I'm
15:46:40 11 called a racist.

15:46:43 12 There's lots of things I could say. You
15:46:46 13 have heard a lot of them today. But I just want to
15:46:49 14 preference, I did attend a forum sponsored by the
15:46:52 15 Louisiana Cultural District about a month ago and
15:46:55 16 paneled by historians. And although they all talked
15:46:59 17 about the culture and the history of New Orleans being
15:47:02 18 one of slavery and white supremacy, they all agreed that
15:47:10 19 the monuments are artifacts and should not be removed
15:47:15 20 but added to so they could have a teaching moment. And
15:47:21 21 I think the historians should be recognized as for what
15:47:26 22 they said.

15:47:27 23 Also, I'd like to just correct one thing.
15:47:30 24 The order of the nuisance law where it said that these
15:47:35 25 monuments may be defaced in the future, I think we could

15:47:38 1 say that about everything.

15:47:39 2 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Your time is up.

15:47:39 3 (APPLAUSE)

15:47:41 4 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: We have E. Slog.

15:47:43 5 Followed by Margaret Phillips.

15:47:45 6 CITIZEN SLOG: Mr. Chairman, thank you very
15:47:47 7 much. My name is E. Slog. I live at 1115 Henry Clay
15:47:53 8 Avenue.

15:47:53 9 Obviously, I'm in favor of maintaining
15:47:55 10 American history as demonstrated by these monuments. To
15:47:59 11 take these monuments down is un-American. It's a height
15:48:03 12 of the --

15:48:06 13 (APPLAUSE)

15:48:08 14 CITIZEN SLOG: Forgive me. I want to raise
15:48:10 15 a point of order or information I think that you can
15:48:13 16 share with my colleagues on the other side of the
15:48:16 17 question.

15:48:16 18 Mr. Chairman, you said you all would make a
15:48:19 19 recommendation today?

15:48:20 20 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: That's correct.

15:48:21 21 CITIZEN SLOG: All right.

15:48:22 22 Now, are you -- one more question, please.
15:48:26 23 Your recommendations that you could consider are
15:48:32 24 unlimited; correct, sir?

15:48:33 25 You could recommend keeping them with

15:48:39 1 plaques, you could recommend moving them and other
15:48:45 2 options?

15:48:46 3 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: You're taking time out of
15:48:49 4 your argument.

15:48:50 5 The commission, after this public debate,
15:48:54 6 will consider the four monuments, and they will vote on
15:48:58 7 each monument separately. And they can make any
15:49:01 8 recommendation the commissioners feel that's within
15:49:06 9 their purview. So, I can't speak for the commission,
15:49:08 10 but that they have broad latitude. But whatever the
15:49:16 11 commission does is just acting as an advisory role to
15:49:19 12 the city council.

15:49:20 13 CITIZEN SLOG: Right.

15:49:21 14 And so the evaluation you're making, sir,
15:49:26 15 were those the evaluations we heard your staff give
15:49:29 16 today? In other words, has your commission done --

15:49:32 17 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Sir, your point of order
15:49:34 18 is --

15:49:36 19 A SPECTATOR: What's the time?

15:49:37 20 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: -- is not really well
15:49:39 21 placed, and you took out your time to do it.

15:49:42 22 The commission has the staff report and all
15:49:44 23 the letters that came in from the City. So we have all
15:49:47 24 that up here with us right now. We received that
15:49:50 25 several days ago, so the commission has had a chance to

15:49:53 1 read it.

15:49:53 2 I'm sorry, your time is up.

15:49:55 3 CITIZEN SLOG: And the public will be
15:49:56 4 entitled to that information; correct?

15:49:58 5 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Anything that's received
15:50:00 6 by the HDLC is public.

15:50:02 7 CITIZEN SLOG: Thank you, sir.

15:50:03 8 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

15:50:04 9 Margaret Phillips. And that's to be
15:50:07 10 followed by Chris Conner, it looks like. Or Canon
15:50:11 11 maybe.

15:50:15 12 MS. PHILLIPS: I'm Margaret Phillips. My
15:50:17 13 address is 2123 Terpsichore.

15:50:21 14 And I just want to say, I moved here because
15:50:24 15 this is a fascinating city and we have so much history.
15:50:28 16 If we start tearing down every single statue because
15:50:31 17 somebody hates it, we will have nothing left. We are
15:50:35 18 one of the most fascinating cities, and we cannot allow
15:50:40 19 ourselves to become bland in the world. And we do keep
15:50:44 20 up Dachau. Dachau is still up because they want to
15:50:52 21 remember what happened so it doesn't happen again.
15:50:56 22 Thank you.

15:50:56 23 (APPLAUSE)

15:50:58 24 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

15:51:00 25 Chris Connor or Chris Canon. It looks like

15:51:05 1 C-O-N-N-O-N, or Canon. Is Chris here?

15:51:14 2 The next one is Danielle Barbara, followed
15:51:18 3 by Pierre McGraw.

15:51:37 4 Was Danielle Barbara here?

15:51:44 5 CITIZEN BARBARA: Hi. Danielle Barbara,
15:51:47 6 6615 LaFourche. Mayor Landrieu came to our Lakeview
15:51:50 7 meeting. He gave us an assignment to go out and talk to
15:51:54 8 somebody that was different. I assumed that that meant
15:51:56 9 somebody that was an African-American.

15:51:57 10 When I talked to them, they said: Tell them
15:51:58 11 that if you want to see something taken down, take down
15:52:01 12 the traffic cameras. They said that they feel like they
15:52:04 13 are more a prisoner in their home. They didn't live
15:52:07 14 during the Civil War. They have to put bars because of
15:52:09 15 crime.

15:52:10 16 They said that politicians start wars,
15:52:12 17 soldiers don't, and so the soldiers don't bother him up
15:52:16 18 there. This reminds them of a bad time and that they
15:52:18 19 learned they live in a great county because of what came
15:52:20 20 after that.

15:52:21 21 They said why don't we build monuments. Put
15:52:24 22 a monument alongside the Robert E. Lee monument.

15:52:24 23 (APPLAUSE)

15:52:31 24 CITIZEN BARBARA: They said that we living
15:52:32 25 in a city with no tolerance, and this used to be the

15:52:35 1 most tolerant city in the America. So they said we can
15:52:38 2 show the rest of the world, just like we do when we win
15:52:43 3 the Super Bowl, how we get along and we can move
15:52:48 4 forward. Thank you.

15:52:48 5 (APPLAUSE)

15:52:48 6 THE MODERATOR: Please keep your applause to
15:52:51 7 the end.

15:52:51 8 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Pierre McGraw. Followed
15:52:51 9 by Donald McGinnis.

15:52:56 10 MR. McGRAW: Pierre McGraw, 1215 Prytania.

15:52:57 11 I'm president of the Monumental Task
15:52:59 12 Committee, which is an all-volunteer nonprofit
15:53:02 13 organization that has taken care of all the city
15:53:06 14 monuments for over 25 years. We acknowledge that there
15:53:10 15 are strong feelings on both sides of this issue, but to
15:53:13 16 remove or relocate any monument will not serve a common
15:53:17 17 good. The empty seat proposes a solution for our
15:53:22 18 present situation, a remedy that should complement the
15:53:25 19 mission of the HDLC.

15:53:27 20 First, just as we shouldn't be doing to each
15:53:31 21 other, we need to all practice tolerance and respect of
15:53:34 22 all monuments. As we all have to live together, if we
15:53:39 23 don't have this, we don't have anything.

15:53:40 24 Secondly, we propose the installation of the
15:53:43 25 interpretive plaques near some of the monuments which

15:53:47 1 will bring the discussion of the monuments to a more
15:53:50 2 current context.

15:53:51 3 And, finally, we encourage the erection of
15:53:54 4 new monuments to forgotten heroes. In our association,
15:53:58 5 we have the means to make that happen. We've also
15:54:00 6 identified many choice high-visibility areas around the
15:54:04 7 city and places to make new traffic circles for the
15:54:09 8 monuments.

15:54:09 9 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: I'm sorry, sir, your time
15:54:10 10 is up.

15:54:10 11 CITIZEN McGRAW: Thank you.

15:54:10 12 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Dawn McGinnis. Followed
15:54:12 13 by Ashley Merlin, it looks like, or Merlot.

15:54:16 14 CITIZEN MCGINNIS: Tom McGinnis, 127
15:54:18 15 Josephine.

15:54:21 16 I am in complete agreement with the previous
15:54:24 17 speaker. I am in favor of the keeping the monuments.
15:54:26 18 I've noticed this controversy, since it first started,
15:54:29 19 the dialog has gone from removal and now it's to
15:54:32 20 relocation. As a former member of this commission on
15:54:35 21 the ARC and the commission of Architectural Requirements
15:54:38 22 for New Orleans, I know you're not using the criteria of
15:54:40 23 scale, architectural details in this discussion.
15:54:43 24 However, if these monuments are to be relocated, my
15:54:47 25 experience has been that, when a project is relocated or

15:54:50 1 a building is demolished or torn down, it has to have an
15:54:54 2 appropriate plan, a concrete plan, approved by you all,
15:54:57 3 given sea legs of the appropriateness. And I think, if
15:55:00 4 we're going to do this, we have to follow that.

15:55:03 5 And, also, I've been to many commission
15:55:05 6 meetings where people plan on building a new building.
15:55:08 7 Well, they have to have proof that they have the
15:55:09 8 financing to do it so you don't have an empty lot. And
15:55:12 9 I think that this is incumbent upon you all to do it.

15:55:14 10 I hope you don't vote to remove or relocate
15:55:18 11 them. But, if you do, I think you have to have a
15:55:20 12 concrete plan for the relocation and financing.

15:55:25 13 (APPLAUSE)

15:55:25 14 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you for your time.

15:55:26 15 We have Ashley Merlot or Merlin. And that's
15:55:29 16 to be followed by Rita McGrand.

15:55:35 17 CITIZEN MERLIN: Ashley Merlin, 908 Metairie
15:55:35 18 Drive.

15:55:40 19 Good afternoon, Commissioners of the
15:55:41 20 Historic District Landmarks Commission. I am Ashley
15:55:41 21 Merlin. I am the author of Statuesque New Orleans, a
15:55:48 22 photography and history book on all city monuments. I
15:55:50 23 am also an active board member of the Monumental Task
15:55:52 24 Committee.

15:55:53 25 Monuments are art, and art is something for

15:55:54 1 everyone. The Beauregard, Lee, Davis and Liberty
15:55:58 2 monuments each have their own unique story. Two were
15:56:03 3 sculpted by Alex Doyle, two are on the National Historic
15:56:06 4 Registry. They were installed in 1884, 1891, 1911 and
15:56:11 5 1915, and there are some of our city's oldest monuments.
15:56:14 6 Located in easily accessible publications, these
15:56:17 7 monuments are important messages for history and art
15:56:17 8 form.

15:56:20 9 I urge the City to keep our statues where
15:56:22 10 they are currently located. The monument solutions that
15:56:25 11 I am recommending today include adding new interpretive
15:56:28 12 plaques, making it a walking tour and adding monuments
15:56:31 13 for forgotten heroes and historic events.

15:56:34 14 Along with the monument committee, I'm
15:56:36 15 adding that an interactive form on my website
15:56:43 16 statuesqueneworleans.com for anyone who would like to
15:56:44 17 nominate new monuments.

15:56:48 18 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

15:56:51 19 Rita LaGrand. Followed by Eugene -- yes.

15:56:54 20 CITIZEN LaGRAND: Good afternoon. My name
15:56:54 21 is Rita LaGrand. I live in Lakeview, 6469 Lewis and
15:56:59 22 14th.

15:57:00 23 I am speaking only for myself. I would like
15:57:02 24 to see Robert E. Lee stay. I love that statue. And I
15:57:07 25 lived uptown for years and passed it all the time, and

15:57:10 1 it is part of my history. Thank you.

15:57:12 2 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you for your time.

15:57:15 3 Eugene, I'm not going to try to say the last
15:57:20 4 name.

15:57:25 5 CITIZEN DAYVIEW: Eugene C. Dayview, 1045
15:57:27 6 Ocean Avenue, Santa Monica, California. Former resident
15:57:34 7 of New Orleans. Author and architect of *Leah Chase:*
15:57:35 8 *Paintings by Gustave Blache, III*. This was my idea.
15:57:38 9 The No. 1 show in 2012, according to the Times-Picayune.

15:57:41 10 Also advises to Dr. Dwight McKenna and
15:57:44 11 Beverly McKenna, for their two museums, highly held, the
15:57:44 12 George & Leah McKenna Museum of African-American Art;
15:57:44 13 and the only true people of color museum in the
15:57:44 14 Smithsonian, which Beverly and I work together. I'm
15:57:44 15 proud of my transracial and transcultural credentials.

15:57:47 16 And, also, in the Beverly Newspaper this
15:58:04 17 month, the Tribune, which was the first African-American
15:58:05 18 newspaper -- and, by the way, shame for the
15:58:07 19 African-American community for not having a sculpture of
15:58:11 20 the Roudanez who formed -- who put the first
15:58:11 21 African-American newspaper together and was the first
15:58:14 22 Civil Rights movement in the United States, the Roudanez
15:58:18 23 family, and the only black governor in the United
15:58:20 24 States, Governor Pinchback, where are the sculptures for
15:58:20 25 them? Where is the black community black sculptures?

15:58:24 1 The fact is, Tim Francis wanted a sculpture.
15:58:26 2 Tim Francis hired a white man, Tom Bruno, to do the
15:58:31 3 sculpture. And he also sculpted Joe Bartholomew, the
15:58:31 4 great black golfer, Tom Bruno. Because there are no
15:58:36 5 African-American sculptors.

15:58:36 6 So I think this is a Marxist Feminist, a
15:58:38 7 Marxist Feminist Activist approach, to tear down our
15:58:38 8 history.

15:58:42 9 A SPECTATOR: Your time is up, buddy.

15:57:25 10 CITIZEN DAYVIEW: Black culture is great.

15:58:46 11 A SPECTATOR: Your time is up, buddy.

15:58:48 12 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Desire Delevern.
15:58:50 13 Followed by Picos Dallas.

15:58:55 14 CITIZEN DELEVERN: Hi. My name is Desire
15:58:57 15 Delevern St. Paul Weggeman. I live at 5803 Cedar Creek
15:59:02 16 Road. My family has been in New Orleans, Louisiana, for
15:59:05 17 over 300 years.

15:59:07 18 The mayor has single-handedly started a war
15:59:11 19 on culture and history in our city. New Orleans is a
15:59:12 20 unique gumbo of culture and history, a living museum.
15:59:15 21 And it appears to many in our community that our mayor
15:59:18 22 is trying to turn Nola into a Disney World type of
15:59:22 23 attraction. Our proud American city has seen nearly 300
15:59:27 24 years of history, unlike any other city in America. Ten
15:59:31 25 flags have flown over New Orleans, including eight flags

15:59:35 1 of different countries. Our city has an incredible
15:59:39 2 history, and every avenue of that history, including all
15:59:42 3 of its monuments, to whatever cause they were erected,
15:59:46 4 deserve to be honored and respected.

15:59:52 5 We in New Orleans have the ability to
15:59:54 6 construct more monuments to causes worthy of meriting
15:59:59 7 such an honor. However, do not tear down or relocate
16:00:03 8 any of our monuments already in place. Address the
16:00:07 9 remedy, and remedy the crisis that are currently facing
16:00:11 10 our city, such as crime --

16:00:12 11 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

16:00:13 12 CITIZEN DELEVERN: And the streets in Lake
16:00:15 13 View. This insanity has got to stop.

16:00:21 14 (CROWD OUTBURST, APPLAUSE)

16:00:21 15 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Poco Scamlin, followed by
16:00:21 16 Garara.

16:00:25 17 CITIZEN SCAMLIN: Poco Scamlin, 1316 Joseph
16:00:27 18 Street. Paco.

16:00:30 19 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Welcome.

16:00:32 20 CITIZEN SCAMLIN: Nobody is opposed to the
16:00:34 21 removal of these statues which among them are symbols of
16:00:41 22 oppression or glorifying slavery. What we have here is
16:00:44 23 a disagreement on interpretation of what these statues
16:00:46 24 mean. And I think that should be recognized, and I
16:00:48 25 think the good-faith arguments of people on both sides

16:00:52 1 of this issue should be recognized, and that is to find
16:00:55 2 a way to compromise on this issue by things that have
16:00:58 3 been suggested, such as construct a monument for the
16:01:02 4 African-American soldiers of Louisiana alongside
16:01:09 5 Jefferson Davis Parkway. And I hope the commission
16:01:11 6 tries to find a way to at least save the Confederate
16:01:17 7 memorials there and to do something else that the other
16:01:20 8 side would agree to that would resolve this issue in a
16:01:25 9 compromise of the situation.

16:01:26 10 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you for your time.

16:01:29 11 Julie --

16:01:31 12 CITIZEN GARRETT: Garrett.

16:01:32 13 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: And the next speaker is
16:01:34 14 going to be Jonathan Mackie.

16:01:39 15 Welcome.

16:01:39 16 CITIZEN GARRETT: Thank you. I'd like to
16:01:40 17 thank you for allowing us to speak.

16:01:43 18 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Could you state your name
16:01:44 19 and address.

16:01:47 20 CITIZEN GARRETT: Julie Garrett, 2010 Royal
16:01:49 21 Street.

16:01:49 22 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

16:01:49 23 CITIZEN GARRETT: I am a disabled veteran,
16:01:50 24 and we have more things pressing than the monuments.

16:01:54 25 First of all, I totally love New Orleans

16:01:56 1 because of the history. It's like saying it never
16:01:58 2 happened. It's like saying Martin Luther King never
16:02:03 3 happened. It's the same thing. I have never seen such
16:02:06 4 a thin line as I have in this city between black and
16:02:09 5 white. So both sides. I think people need to stop and
16:02:13 6 take a reality check.

16:02:15 7 Also, over 60 percent of our community is a
16:02:18 8 black population, which the mayor is thinking voters.
16:02:22 9 He needs to put this money towards -- no, he is. He's
16:02:26 10 thinking numbers, and that's the way political people
16:02:28 11 think.

16:02:29 12 I also think that education needs to be
16:02:32 13 addressed.

16:02:34 14 Also, there's a disabled veteran underneath
16:02:37 15 the Claiborne Bridge right now in a wheelchair.

16:02:42 16 Health care for everyone.

16:02:43 17 The priorities are messed up.

16:02:45 18 I actually cried this morning, thinking
16:02:48 19 about where I come from. I lived in California for
16:02:50 20 three years with my son, and I am embarrassed to be here
16:02:54 21 by all the prejudice.

16:02:56 22 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: I'm sorry, ma'am, your
16:02:56 23 time is up. But thank you.

16:02:59 24 Jonathan Mackie.

16:03:01 25 CITIZEN MACKIE: Mackie.

16:03:01 1 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: I apologize.

16:03:02 2 State your name and address for the record.

16:03:04 3 CITIZEN MACKIE: Jonathan Mackie, 1010

16:03:08 4 Pleasant Street.

16:03:09 5 I don't think I can express better than

16:03:12 6 everyone else that's already talked here about the PT

16:03:14 7 Beauregard statue. What I can say is that it's sad to

16:03:22 8 see that the racial division of this cause in the city.

16:03:27 9 I think that we are a city that's built on diversity,

16:03:31 10 and that's our biggest strength.

16:03:34 11 And people say tear down the statues, put

16:03:37 12 them in a museum. New Orleans is a museum. We're a

16:03:41 13 living museum. That's what makes it great to live here.

16:03:41 14 (APPLAUSE)

16:03:45 15 CITIZEN MACKIE: We need to recognize that

16:03:46 16 all parts of our history are not always savory but they

16:03:51 17 are teaching tools. Let's reinterpret the statues,

16:03:54 18 let's put up new statues and honor all sides of history,

16:03:58 19 teach all sides of the story and promote racial unity,

16:04:02 20 not the division that this has caused. This is not the

16:04:05 21 way to create a better unified city. That's it.

16:04:09 22 (APPLAUSE)

16:04:12 23 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Monroe Coleman. Followed

16:04:13 24 by Kent Wagner.

16:04:15 25 Monroe Coleman.

16:04:21 1 THE MODERATOR: Please hold your applause.

16:04:33 2 CITIZEN COLEMAN: Good evening. Monroe

16:04:36 3 Coleman, 600 Jackson Avenue.

16:04:38 4 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

16:04:39 5 CITIZEN COLEMAN: America represents the

16:04:41 6 good, the bad and the ugly. You got to decide on what

16:04:45 7 it is per issue. We, the people, under one nation. If

16:04:52 8 we are the people under one nation, we here can find

16:04:57 9 something to better to do than what we're really doing,

16:05:00 10 but we're exercising Democracy.

16:05:02 11 (APPLAUSE)

16:05:04 12 CITIZEN COLEMAN: I have traveled 43 states,

16:05:06 13 to Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean. All of those areas

16:05:11 14 I go to, they are represented by one country, in which

16:05:16 15 they are. They don't divide themselves up like we do:

16:05:19 16 I'm Asian, I'm this, I'm American, I'm French, all that.

16:05:25 17 One nation.

16:05:25 18 I stand before you representing white,

16:05:30 19 black, Native American. That's what makes up me. On my

16:05:36 20 mama's side, they own the field. On my daddy's side,

16:05:40 21 they worked the field.

16:05:43 22 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: I'm sorry --

16:05:44 23 CITIZEN COLEMAN: That's my minute?

16:05:45 24 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: That's your minute.

16:05:47 25 CITIZEN COLEMAN: That was a fast minute.

16:05:51 1 (APPLAUSE)

16:05:53 2 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: You can blame it on the

16:05:54 3 clock.

16:05:56 4 CITIZEN COLEMAN: But keep the statues.

16:05:58 5 That's how it is.

16:06:00 6 (APPLAUSE)

16:06:03 7 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: The next speaker after

16:06:04 8 this will be Beth Cline.

16:06:07 9 CITIZEN WAGGONER: Kenneth Waggoner.

16:06:08 10 Flooded out of New Orleans by Katrina. I reside in

16:06:12 11 Metairie, 3801 West Napoleon. But I live in New

16:06:16 12 Orleans.

16:06:18 13 If it starts here with the decision going to

16:06:21 14 be made by the city council regarding these four

16:06:26 15 monuments, and also some of the suggestions that many

16:06:31 16 street names, or some, should be changed, my question

16:06:35 17 becomes -- and not for you to answer -- but it becomes:

16:06:38 18 Where and when does it end? Some people have stated

16:06:43 19 already in their presentations: It doesn't end now. We

16:06:48 20 have seen signs that it doesn't end now.

16:06:53 21 The thing that gets me somewhat is this

16:06:57 22 saying what we determine is the nuisance. And I'm sure

16:07:00 23 we all have different ideas about that.

16:07:03 24 But, for some, what they consider is a

16:07:08 25 nuisance is guaranteed to others as freedom of speech,

16:07:14 1 protected by the First Amendment of the United States
16:07:18 2 Constitution. Thank you.

16:07:18 3 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

16:07:22 4 Beth Cline, followed by Sarah Douglas.

16:07:32 5 CITIZEN CLINE: Beth Cline, 310 Hardy Drive.

16:07:35 6 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Welcome.

16:07:36 7 CITIZEN CLINE: Reconciliation plaques on
16:07:38 8 the monuments, number one.

16:07:42 9 Number two is, somebody's not playing right.
16:07:46 10 If anybody wasn't from New Orleans, they'd come in here
16:07:50 11 and say --

16:07:51 12 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Speak into the
16:07:52 13 microphone, please.

16:07:54 14 CITIZEN CLINE: -- because they must be
16:07:56 15 wealthy people. Millions. Put the monuments up.
16:08:01 16 Millions. Take the monuments down. Where is all the
16:08:05 17 money coming from, because the poor taxpayers don't even
16:08:08 18 get streets. And the police in Jefferson Parish --

16:08:08 19 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Please speak into the
16:08:11 20 microphone.

16:08:13 21 CITIZEN CLINE: -- murder in my
16:08:14 22 neighborhoods. But, oh, we got millions for monuments
16:08:14 23 and nothing for me.

16:08:20 24 (APPLAUSE)

16:08:20 25 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Sarah Douglas.

16:08:20 1 CITIZEN DOUGLAS: Good afternoon. Sarah
16:08:32 2 Douglas, from New Orleans, Louisiana.

16:08:36 3 I am against the removal of the monuments.
16:08:40 4 A former speaker before me said it would cost millions
16:08:45 5 of dollars to remove the monuments. A million dollars.
16:08:49 6 That is absurd.

16:08:51 7 People in favor of keeping the monuments are
16:08:53 8 saying -- in favor of removing the monuments are saying
16:08:58 9 that it's ridiculous that we're having this
16:09:01 10 conversation. I think it's ridiculous that we're
16:09:05 11 considering spending a million to remove the monuments.
16:09:07 12 We have no streets, our crime is ridiculous, our schools
16:09:12 13 are atrocious, and you're caring about monuments. That
16:09:18 14 is the ridiculous statement that we're having. Thank
16:09:22 15 you.

16:09:22 16 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

16:09:24 17 Ladies and gentlemen, that ends the public
16:09:25 18 comment. We do have -- we heard from the exact same
16:09:28 19 number from both sides. It was totally equal.

16:09:31 20 I have cards here of people that were not
16:09:33 21 heard. I'm going to hand these off to the Human
16:09:37 22 Relations Committee. That meeting begins at 6:00
16:09:40 23 o'clock tonight, and you can care to stay for it or
16:09:44 24 return for it.

16:09:45 25 Now, we're going to have the commission

16:09:47 1 discussion, but there will be no further public comment,
16:09:50 2 nor can you address the commission. The time now is
16:09:52 3 reserved for the commission itself. Thank you.

16:09:59 4 The commissioners we have before us, this
16:10:02 5 agenda item. We have -- I'll tell you what, why don't
16:10:09 6 we wait for a couple minutes for the room to clear out.

16:10:09 7 (Pause in proceedings.)

16:11:21 8 CHAIRMAN LaBLANC: The meeting will come to
16:11:22 9 order. The New Orleans Landmark Commission will come to
16:11:27 10 order. The commissioners before are here now.

16:11:33 11 Before us we the four monuments: The Robert
16:11:38 12 E. Lee monument, the PTG Beauregard monument, the
16:11:43 13 Jefferson Davis monument and the Liberty monument. We
16:11:45 14 have four separate motions, and we're going to have four
16:11:48 15 separate votes.

16:11:50 16 Now the floor is open to general discussion
16:11:52 17 by the commissioners or any commissioner can make a
16:11:55 18 motion. So the floor is ya'lls. Who wants to be first?

16:12:05 19 Commissioner Alexander.

16:12:05 20 COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER: Was it something I
16:12:09 21 said?

16:12:10 22 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: I have to begin
16:12:11 23 somewhere.

16:12:12 24 COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr.
16:12:13 25 Chairman.

16:12:17 1 Let me preference what I'm about to say with
16:12:19 2 several statements.

16:12:20 3 I am not a racist.

16:12:26 4 I also did not grow up in the city of New
16:12:29 5 Orleans. I grew up in the South. I grew up in Memphis,
16:12:32 6 Tennessee.

16:12:33 7 I remember exactly what I was doing when
16:12:36 8 Dr. King was killed. My dad and I were going to church
16:12:41 9 that evening. We got stopped by the police: Where you
16:12:44 10 Guise going? Going to church. And we did.

16:12:48 11 Dr. King preached throughout his life and
16:12:53 12 died for: Let's build bridges, not walls.

16:12:58 13 There were a lot of comments that I heard
16:13:00 14 today. One of them was Dachau in Germany, it's still
16:13:09 15 there. I recently watched an episode of HGTV where a
16:13:15 16 French family rebuilt one of the old beach-facing
16:13:23 17 bunkers that the Germans constructed to shoot at the
16:13:32 18 allied forces as they tried to liberate France and the
16:13:36 19 rest of Europe. I happen to be an avid history buff.

16:13:47 20 I am afraid that my position in this
16:13:49 21 situation is that I believe that, if we try to erase our
16:13:55 22 history, we stand the opportunity of repeating it.

16:13:55 23 (APPLAUSE)

16:14:07 24 My mother was a visionary. My mom told me
16:14:11 25 that: You can do and be anything you want to. And the

16:14:17 1 fact that I'm addressing you today bears out that
16:14:19 2 statement. Not only was she a visionary, my mom saw me
16:14:28 3 doing what you see me doing today, before she was
16:14:32 4 married, before she had any children at all. I am her
16:14:37 5 oldest son. She always told us: Hold your head erect,
16:14:43 6 have your facts straight, and just go forward and do it.
16:14:49 7 And that is what I believe to do in life.

16:14:55 8 I'm of the opinion that, yes, we do need
16:15:00 9 more money. As I walked to this meeting today, I
16:15:04 10 stopped at the statue right here across the street of
16:15:06 11 Mr. John McDonogh. Born in Baltimore. Left lots of
16:15:13 12 lots of money that he earned here. Philanthropic
16:15:18 13 business, grower, businessman, the whole nine yards.
16:15:24 14 But he left a lot of money to the education system of
16:15:26 15 the city. And one-by-one, those schools that were named
16:15:31 16 to honor Mr. McDonogh have been changed to something
16:15:35 17 else for some of the same reasons.

16:15:36 18 Now, I'm a little confused. I didn't know
16:15:39 19 those statues showed up last month. I really did not.

16:15:44 20 I'm an avid reader. In one of his books,
16:15:50 21 Edgar Allen Poe wrote about a letter, a perlorian
16:15:56 22 letter, that was hidden in plain sight. Is that what
16:16:00 23 happened with these monuments? Did everyone just wake
16:16:03 24 up and find them in their neighborhoods?

16:16:08 25 I have traveled around the city since I

16:16:11 1 lived here, and I've been here 43 years now. And, yes,
16:16:14 2 New Orleans is in fact a museum. In some of our private
16:16:21 3 discussions, I've indicated that: Move them, okay. But
16:16:28 4 I'm looking at what's going on in Europe, particularly
16:16:32 5 Germany, right now, and we still have people who are
16:16:39 6 holocaust deniers, that didn't happen, that cannot
16:16:43 7 happen in New Orleans. We can't do that. If we fail to
16:16:48 8 learn from our history and use it to teach our children
16:16:52 9 and our progeny, I'm afraid we will follow the same
16:16:57 10 historic ignorance as one of the speakers who are is
16:17:03 11 favor of removing the monuments. This was all about
16:17:06 12 ignorance. We can't follow that same path.

16:17:15 13 I will defer to -- I could say a lot more,
16:17:18 14 believe me. But I think that the fact that I'm speaking
16:17:22 15 to you and the fact that the history of the way blacks
16:17:27 16 and Indians and -- excuse me for the Indian term --
16:17:32 17 Native Americans, if you will. Hey, I've been called a
16:17:36 18 lot of names from the time I was a child. I consider
16:17:39 19 myself a man, period.

16:17:42 20 (APPLAUSE)

16:17:42 21 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

16:17:44 22 Any other commissioners?

16:17:46 23 Commissioner deMontluzin.

16:17:54 24 COMMISSIONER deMONTLUZIN: That was a very
16:17:56 25 wonderful talk, Commissioner Alexander.

16:17:59 1 I would like to start out by saying that I
16:18:01 2 feel that New Orleans is probably -- can you hear me --
16:18:12 3 that New Orleans is probably one of the only European
16:18:15 4 cities left in the United States.

16:18:19 5 (APPLAUSE)

16:18:22 6 COMMISSIONER deMONTLUZIN: We have cultures
16:18:23 7 from every race, every nation. We have certain things
16:18:30 8 that are unique to New Orleans that you won't find in
16:18:33 9 other cities. And I have never ever looked at any of
16:18:38 10 these statues as an oppression or any indication of
16:18:43 11 white supremacy. In fact, today is the first time that
16:18:48 12 I've heard that word "white supremacy" used, and I've
16:18:53 13 been here 20 years. I've not ever heard it in at least
16:18:57 14 the last 20 years.

16:18:58 15 I have lived in this city for 78 years. I
16:19:05 16 feel the same way towards all races; I don't hold one
16:19:10 17 race above the other race. And I know that Mardi Gras
16:19:16 18 time, if you go to Lee Circle, as an example, you'll see
16:19:20 19 all sorts of races there. It's not a European American
16:19:26 20 race that would be there, or a white race. There are or
16:19:30 21 more, really, African-American or black people at Lee
16:19:35 22 Circle than there are any other race. So I don't think
16:19:38 23 that Lee Circle represents a nuisance to them or brings
16:19:42 24 up bad memories to the black race.

16:19:48 25 The Civil War was primarily about the

16:19:55 1 North imposing strong tariffs on the South. It was not
16:20:00 2 primarily about slavery. Slavery was a minor part of
16:20:07 3 the Civil War. The main issue was the fact that the
16:20:11 4 southern states were opening up ports on their eastern
16:20:14 5 boundaries so that they could equalize with the North
16:20:17 6 and we wouldn't have to pay these high taxes to the
16:20:21 7 North that we were being required to pay. And so
16:20:28 8 cessation was really the main motivating factor.

16:20:35 9 I'm not a politically correct person, and
16:20:37 10 I probably never will be. I speak with what my
16:20:43 11 conscience is, and I feel that the mayor's attempt to do
16:20:50 12 this is maybe something that may have been motivated by
16:20:56 13 his father tried to do this roughly 40 years ago. I
16:20:58 14 don't know if you all are aware of that. But his father
16:21:01 15 tried to remove the statues, and he was unsuccessful.

16:21:14 16 I think that's about all the comments that I
16:21:15 17 have. Thank you.

16:21:15 18 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

16:21:19 19 Commissioner Deveney.

16:21:19 20 COMMISSIONER DEVENEY: I certainly
16:21:27 21 understand and am persuaded by what the last two
16:21:31 22 commissioners have said. There's a great deal to this
16:21:36 23 issue that merits consideration.

16:21:37 24 I think that we're fortunate in that our
16:21:40 25 directions are very clear. There are only a few things

16:21:42 1 that we are supposed to consider in our deliberation.

16:21:46 2 That first one being: Whether the object
16:21:51 3 fosters an etiology that's inconsistent with who we are.

16:21:56 4 And we've heard that these monuments are the
16:22:00 5 manifestation or the celebration of the Cult of the Lost
16:22:07 6 Cause, which does support an idea of an inferiority or a
16:22:13 7 separation of race. And I find that profoundly
16:22:16 8 disturbing, the fact that this does speak about slavery.
16:22:20 9 These statues have never bothered me, but that's because
16:22:24 10 I've been ignorant as well.

16:22:28 11 The ideology of the Cult of the Lost Cause,
16:22:31 12 I think, does trigger that first consideration, and it's
16:22:35 13 only one of three that we're supposed to consider.

16:22:38 14 So there's a great deal more to this issue
16:22:40 15 and to this topic and to our city and to our people, but
16:22:45 16 our charge is very clear and it's limited. And I'm
16:22:48 17 having trouble with how we get over that first charge
16:22:53 18 that we're given about the fact that this does elevate
16:22:59 19 or foster an etiology that is inconsistent and, in my
16:23:05 20 opinion, reprehensive.

16:23:09 21 (APPLAUSE)

16:23:10 22 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

16:23:11 23 Commissioner Nathan.

16:23:11 24 COMMISSIONER NATHAN: I was going to speak
16:23:16 25 to the same point. Commissioner Deveney expressed my

16:23:21 1 position precisely. I respect the history and the
16:23:28 2 concerns and interests of everybody who spoke today,
16:23:30 3 both sides. I think there are valid points on both
16:23:34 4 side. But I can't get past that either.

16:23:37 5 And, specifically, when people want to say
16:23:39 6 that it doesn't represent the Lost Cause of slavery, you
16:23:43 7 only have to go back to how they were erected in the
16:23:47 8 first place and the sentiments of the people who wanted
16:23:54 9 to have them established and the time that they did it
16:23:56 10 to understand that it was in fact in defense of the Lost
16:24:00 11 Cause.

16:24:01 12 I think there are many things about our city
16:24:02 13 and our region that are beautiful, and I do believe in
16:24:07 14 diversity, and I do believe in all the opinions that
16:24:11 15 were expressed. I say the same thing, I can't -- I
16:24:14 16 don't understand how to get past the law which says that
16:24:18 17 if the statues represent -- suggest supremacy of one
16:24:18 18 ethnic, religious or racial group over any other, or
16:24:18 19 gives praise to any violent actions taken wrongfully
16:24:18 20 against citizens of the city to promote ethnic,
16:24:27 21 religious or racial supremacy of any group over another.
16:24:36 22 They shouldn't be there. And I hope the plan -- I think
16:24:42 23 it is a very important point about where they're
16:24:45 24 relocated to, and I think that's something that has to
16:24:49 25 be taken into consideration. And I recommended that

16:24:53 1 that's done properly, with public input, and that
16:24:57 2 they're dealt with respectfully. But I think they
16:25:01 3 should be relocated.

16:25:03 4 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

16:25:05 5 Who would like to speak next? Any other
16:25:11 6 commissioner that would like to speak?

16:25:13 7 Commissioner Harang.

16:25:13 8 COMMISSIONER Harang: I have a question for
16:25:16 9 the staff.

16:25:16 10 Do we know what federal guidelines govern
16:25:19 11 these structures currently if we deem conflict, or if
16:25:24 12 there's another federal process that we would have to go
16:25:27 13 through that alter these?

16:25:31 14 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: We're aware that that is
16:25:36 15 best answered by the law department spokesperson. So
16:25:40 16 the answer is no.

16:25:42 17 LAW DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL: Good afternoon,
16:25:43 18 Commissioners.

16:25:44 19 Very briefly, the code of regulation that
16:25:46 20 governs the monuments only apply to those that are on
16:25:49 21 the National Register, but also used that federal funds
16:25:52 22 for their erection. We do not have any monuments in
16:25:56 23 this group that meet that criteria, so we are not
16:26:00 24 necessarily bound by those federal regulations at this
16:26:04 25 time.

16:26:04 1 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

16:26:08 2 Commissioner Harang.

16:25:13 3 COMMISSIONER Harang: This is different from
16:26:16 4 the fence heights and things that we normally do, but
16:26:18 5 I've heard a lot of things today.

16:26:20 6 One being that, to take these down would be
16:26:23 7 a denial of history.

16:26:27 8 The way that they were erected was in a way
16:26:31 9 a denial of history and to push along a tradition that
16:26:36 10 was based on falsehoods that the war was not centrally
16:26:41 11 about slavery. That the Southern order was fighting for
16:26:47 12 a just cause and that that should be celebrated.

16:26:51 13 A lot of these, in my opinion, from the
16:26:53 14 research I have done, they were put up as a celebration
16:26:55 15 of the end of Reconstruction and removal of the federal
16:26:59 16 troops and in celebration that the old order was back
16:27:03 17 and in control of the state again.

16:27:05 18 I have a personal affinity for the statue,
16:27:09 19 the General Beauregard. First of all, it's one of the
16:27:12 20 most impressive in town, in my opinion. General
16:27:17 21 Beauregard was maybe one of the most brilliant men in
16:27:20 22 our country. He completed the Customs House on Canal
16:27:23 23 Street. He helped to design the electric street car
16:27:26 24 system in New Orleans. Also, after the war, he was part
16:27:29 25 of the unification party, which one of the stated goals

16:27:35 1 was to split up political office equally between white
16:27:39 2 and black in Louisiana. Which, for the 1880s, it was
16:27:44 3 amazing.

16:27:48 4 However, the erection of the monument had
16:27:50 5 nothing though do with that. The erection of the
16:27:54 6 monument was to maintain the social order. And for that
16:27:57 7 reason I'm for removal.

16:28:01 8 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

16:28:02 9 Any other commissioner that cares to speak?
16:28:05 10 Commissioner Green.

16:28:05 11 COMMISSIONER GREEN: First, I'd like to
16:28:09 12 thank the citizens for your thoughtful comments, and I
16:28:13 13 would add everyone in the administration and the staff
16:28:14 14 and my fellow commissioners.

16:28:16 15 My comments are not as eloquent as my fellow
16:28:20 16 commissioners, as this is my first meeting. I would
16:28:22 17 just like to exemplify, if you can -- and I'm not sure
16:28:26 18 if this is a question for the staff or to you, Mr.
16:28:28 19 Chairman.

16:28:29 20 So one of the men -- and, I'm sorry, he's
16:28:30 21 left and I do not remember his name -- mentioned that we
16:28:34 22 have the ability as a commission to vote on any number
16:28:36 23 of options for what would happen.

16:28:39 24 And, in my reading of this, says that it's a
16:28:41 25 vote for removal and relocation or a vote that they

16:28:45 1 stay. Is that correct, that we don't have the option as
16:28:48 2 this commission to erect a plaque or anything of that
16:28:51 3 nature?

16:28:52 4 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: I would have to ask the
16:28:53 5 law department that question.

16:28:57 6 What are our options and the motion -- can
16:29:00 7 the motion be that the monuments go to a specific
16:29:04 8 location, or do they have to -- or can there be
16:29:09 9 interpretive plaques put on them. Go ahead, law
16:29:12 10 department.

16:29:12 11 LAW DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL: Thank you.
16:29:14 12 Thanks for your question.

16:29:15 13 So the focus of today's meeting is simply to
16:29:18 14 give a recommendation to the council per the Ordinance
16:29:21 15 146-611 on whether or not the monument should remain on
16:29:25 16 outdoor public display.

16:29:27 17 So, of course, as the conversation continues
16:29:29 18 in the future, those issues are relevant and pertinent
16:29:32 19 and should be discussed. But today's recommendation is
16:29:36 20 simply limited to remaining on public display or being
16:29:39 21 removed from public display.

16:29:41 22 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: But the commission to
16:29:43 23 separate from these four motions and make a
16:29:44 24 recommendation to the council for some specific
16:29:50 25 recommendation?

16:29:51 1 LAW DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL: That's not --
16:29:52 2 that is not a part of the ordinance that we are
16:29:55 3 operating by today.

16:29:57 4 Of course, you are welcome to discuss that
16:30:01 5 at future meetings, if you so desire. But it's not a
16:30:06 6 part of the ordinance that we're operating under today.

16:30:09 7 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Commissioner Green, did
16:30:10 8 that answer your question?

16:30:09 9 COMMISSIONER GREEN: Yes. Thank you very
16:30:14 10 much.

16:30:14 11 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Commissioner Deveney.

16:30:16 12 COMMISSIONER DEVENEY: Just to follow-up,
16:30:17 13 I'd like a little more clarity on this. Really, what's
16:30:20 14 happening here is the municipal authority is looking to
16:30:23 15 the HDLC for a specific perspective on these as lanes.
16:30:31 16 And so the way we operate is, typically, we'll make a
16:30:35 17 motion, and it will be voted on, and supported or not
16:30:39 18 supported. So we could make a motion that simply says:
16:30:44 19 In our estimation, based on the criteria that we're
16:30:48 20 given to make this decision, this monument may be
16:30:51 21 removed or may not be removed?

16:30:58 22 LAW DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL: If I'm following
16:30:59 23 you correctly, I think the simple answer is, yes. You
16:31:02 24 are free to craft your motion however you would like to.
16:31:04 25 The council is looking to this body for a recommendation

16:31:07 1 per the ordinance on removal or no removal.

16:31:13 2 COMMISSIONER DEVENEY: And certainly we have
16:31:14 3 the prerogative, in our motion, to suggest continued
16:31:18 4 public discussion and consideration of some of the
16:31:21 5 important facts and considerations that have come up
16:31:24 6 which should be weighted as part of the process? This
16:31:28 7 is a very specific part of a larger process.

16:31:33 8 LAW DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL: You're certainly
16:31:34 9 welcome to include that in a motion as part of your
16:31:36 10 recommendation based on the public comments.

16:31:39 11 COMMISSIONER DEVENEY: Because some of the
16:31:40 12 concern was where, you know, if this commission deems
16:31:43 13 that a monument may be moved, the question is where will
16:31:47 14 it be moved. But that is very clearly outside of what
16:31:51 15 we could deliberate on today based on what we have in
16:31:54 16 front of us.

16:31:56 17 LAW DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL: That's absolutely
16:31:57 18 correct. Thank you very much.

16:32:01 19 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Commissioners, is there
16:32:02 20 any other public comment by any commissioner? Any
16:32:07 21 commissioners care to speak?

16:32:10 22 Commissioner Hackenberg, did you want to
16:32:12 23 speak?

16:32:13 24 COMMISSIONER HACKENBERG: I would like to
16:32:16 25 address, in dealing with history of these monuments.

16:32:22 1 Monuments built and monuments of all sort are placed
16:32:27 2 with a certain tension. Monuments can, however, change
16:32:32 3 the interpretation of those monuments.

16:32:38 4 I was there when the Liberty Place monument
16:32:42 5 controversy was going on, and I find it appalling that
16:32:49 6 this was in place with its long sorted history with the
16:32:55 7 encryptions that were added to it, later to be covered
16:32:59 8 over and then to be given an interpretive flag. Which I
16:33:04 9 think did nothing to de-connote the initial purpose that
16:33:12 10 the monument was meant to commemorate.

16:33:16 11 I find the statue of the Jefferson Davis to
16:33:19 12 be pretty ambiguous for what it stands for, the first
16:33:23 13 president of the Confederacy. The Beauregard statue and
16:33:28 14 the Robert E. Lee monument statue, I feel there may have
16:33:31 15 been some change over time which would probably need to
16:33:35 16 be better expressed with the addition of interpretive
16:33:41 17 plaques that perhaps identifies the Lost Cause and
16:33:46 18 enunciate precisely why it should be lost.

16:33:50 19 And, given the prominence in the locations
16:33:55 20 that they hold, I feel that these two could be made
16:34:00 21 appropriate.

16:34:01 22 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

16:34:02 23 Commissioner deMONTLUZIN.

16:34:07 24 COMMISSIONER deMONTLUZIN: I just want to
16:34:08 25 address the one issue about the legality of the statues.

16:34:14 1 In the staff report, it was indicated that
16:34:18 2 the Robert E. Lee monument would cost us somewhere in
16:34:21 3 the neighborhood of \$200,000, and that's over a period
16:34:24 4 of maybe 30 years. And I don't know the authenticity of
16:34:30 5 that figure because it came from the Times Picayune. So
16:34:33 6 I don't know how accurate that is. If it include grass
16:34:42 7 cutting, if it included the maintenance of Lee Circle --
16:34:47 8 Lee Circle is a pretty big area, and just the
16:34:50 9 maintenance of that would be rather expensive.

16:34:53 10 And then, as far as the demonstrations are
16:34:54 11 concerned, I'm not familiar with any public
16:34:57 12 demonstrations at Lee Circle. I'm not saying that it
16:35:01 13 didn't take place, and we may have had demonstrations
16:35:06 14 that have taken place in that part of the city.

16:35:10 15 So I, too, would have to disagree with the
16:35:12 16 staff in the fact that they say that these possibly
16:35:15 17 could be illegal statues.

16:35:17 18 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

16:35:19 19 Are there any other comments by any
16:35:21 20 commissioner?

16:35:22 21 Commissioner Alexander.

16:35:30 22 COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr.
16:35:31 23 Chairman.

16:35:35 24 In studying debate when I was in school, one
16:35:41 25 of the things that we learned in debate was: Until

16:35:44 1 you're actually in the contest, you don't know which
16:35:49 2 side you're going to argue. That happens at the debate.
16:35:56 3 And you're assigned which side to argue. It was an old
16:36:01 4 Native American adage that says: Walk a mile for a
16:36:06 5 month, a moon, for 30 days, in my shoes to see my view
16:36:10 6 of things.

16:36:13 7 I think that, one, it makes sense for us to
16:36:17 8 consider every side of this, particularly because of the
16:36:24 9 history.

16:36:24 10 And, secondly, it is my opinion based on
16:36:26 11 just with what we've seen here today, that whatever we
16:36:29 12 decide to do today, I think it needs to be put to a vote
16:36:34 13 of the people of the city of New Orleans.

16:36:34 14 (APPLAUSE).

16:36:36 15 COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER: That's what I
16:36:42 16 think.

16:36:43 17 You know, we don't really -- contrary to
16:36:46 18 what are our children are being taught in school, we do
16:36:49 19 not truly have a Democracy in this country. What we
16:36:55 20 have is a democratic republic. That is, we elect people
16:36:59 21 to represent our positions on things, and sometimes they
16:37:02 22 do.

16:37:08 23 So whatever comes out of this meeting with
16:37:11 24 us today, please recommend to the council that they put
16:37:16 25 it to a vote of the people. Thank you.

16:37:19 1 (APPLAUSE)

16:37:21 2 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Thank you.

16:37:23 3 Are there any other comments by any
16:37:25 4 commissioners?

16:37:26 5 We're now down to the -- we have the motions
16:37:29 6 and seconds and votes by these commissioners.

16:37:34 7 I know we're dealing with a very
16:37:35 8 controversial subject, but we have to do the job we've
16:37:39 9 been assigned.

16:37:40 10 And so we have the four monuments. We'll do
16:37:46 11 each one of them separately.

16:37:49 12 So I'm willing to open the floor to any
16:37:52 13 motion by any commissioner on my monument. Do we have a
16:37:56 14 motion by anybody?

16:37:58 15 Commissioner Deveney.

16:37:58 16 COMMISSIONER DEVENEY: And I also want to
16:38:01 17 say that I understand everything that you just said
16:38:05 18 about we must weigh all the sides and all the facts, but
16:38:10 19 in this case it's we as New Orleanians and we as
16:38:15 20 citizens and we as people. We as a commission actually
16:38:19 21 should not weigh all the different facts and factors.
16:38:22 22 We're fortunate enough that we just concentrate on these
16:38:26 23 three.

16:38:26 24 And given that, and given the fact that the
16:38:29 25 Robert E. Lee monument is stated by expert opinion to

16:38:35 1 represent the Cult of the Lost Cause and our education
16:38:40 2 of what that cult represents, I make a motion that that
16:38:47 3 monument may be removed from its current public display.

16:38:55 4 (MOTION SECONDED)

16:38:55 5 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Seconded by Commissioner
16:37:58 6 Deveney, seconded by Commissioner Nathan, to recommend
16:39:02 7 to the council that the Robert E. Lee monument be
16:39:04 8 removed.

16:39:04 9 We now have to vote on that.

16:37:58 10 COMMISSIONER DEVENEY: Actually, I'm sorry,
16:39:08 11 I said that it may be removed. I'm pulling the language
16:39:11 12 directly from the --

16:39:13 13 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: May be removed. That's
16:39:14 14 what I thought I said. May be removed.

16:39:18 15 Is there any discussion on the motion?

16:39:19 16 All those in favor of the motion?

16:39:25 17 THE MODERATOR: Please keep your hands up
16:39:27 18 while we take the vote.

16:39:29 19 The motion carries.

16:39:32 20 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: The motion carries.

16:39:34 21 We have a motion on the PT Beauregard
16:39:41 22 monument.

16:39:50 23 I'm sorry, I was just reminded by
16:39:52 24 Commissioner Deveney that I didn't ask for those
16:39:55 25 opposed. I apologize. It's been a long day so far.

16:39:58 1 Anyway, all those that are opposed to the
16:40:01 2 previous motion that just passed, please raise your
16:40:03 3 hands.

16:40:03 4 (PAUSE IN PROCEEDINGS)

16:40:12 5 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Moving on. Do we have a
16:40:12 6 motion on the PTG Beauregard monument?

16:40:17 7 Commissioner Lapeyrolerie.

16:40:20 8 COMMISSIONER LAPEYROLERIE: Based on the
16:40:20 9 criteria set forth in the council ordinance, I move that
16:40:25 10 the Beauregard monument may be removed. That's all.

16:40:34 11 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Is there a second to that
16:40:35 12 motion?

16:40:35 13 (MOTION SECONDED)

16:40:36 14 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Seconded by Commissioner
16:40:38 15 French.

16:40:39 16 Any discussion on the motion?

16:40:42 17 All those in favor -- discussion of the
16:40:45 18 motion, Commissioner Alexander.

16:40:48 19 COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER: I'm curious, are we
16:40:50 20 simply talking about being removed or moved? Or are we
16:40:54 21 talking about at some point having it placed somewhere
16:40:57 22 else, a museum, a place where they can be displayed?

16:41:05 23 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: We are making a motion
16:41:10 24 that the ordinance says may be removed. We are not
16:41:13 25 making any recommendations on what the ultimate outcome

16:41:16 1 of the monuments is if they are removed.

16:41:18 2 COMMISSIONER ALEXANDER: Very good. Thank
16:41:20 3 you.

16:41:20 4 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Somebody can conclude
16:41:21 5 that. That's up to the maker of the motion.

16:41:24 6 We have a motion before and a second.

16:41:27 7 Correct?

16:41:28 8 All those in favor of the motion.

16:41:35 9 All those opposed.

16:41:38 10 (APPLAUSE)

16:41:41 11 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Motion carries.

16:41:43 12 The third motion is on the Jefferson Davis
16:41:46 13 monument.

16:41:51 14 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: Mr. Chairman?

16:41:54 15 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Mr. Sanchez.

16:41:55 16 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: My motion is that the
16:41:56 17 recommendation is made to remove the Jefferson Davis
16:41:59 18 statue.

16:41:59 19 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Is there a second to that
16:42:00 20 motion?

16:42:00 21 (MOTION SECONDED)

16:42:01 22 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: Seconded by Commissioner
16:42:02 23 Harang.

16:42:03 24 The motion by Commissioner Sanchez, seconded
16:42:05 25 by Commissioner Harang, would be to recommend to the

16:42:09 1 council that the Jefferson Davis statue may be moved.

16:42:12 2 All those in favor of that motion?

16:42:16 3 (APPLAUSE)

16:42:18 4 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: All those opposed?

16:42:20 5 THE MODERATOR: The motion carries.

16:42:21 6 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: The motion carries.

16:42:24 7 The final monument is the Liberty Place

16:42:27 8 monument. We have a motion by Commissioner Green,

16:42:29 9 seconded by Commissioner Alexander.

16:42:42 10 COMMISSIONER GREEN: I'd like to make a

16:42:43 11 motion based on the criteria presented to us that the

16:42:49 12 monument may be removed -- Or recommend to the city

16:42:50 13 council that it may be removed.

16:42:50 14 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: The motion made by

16:42:53 15 Commissioner Green, seconded by Commissioner Alexander,

16:42:57 16 that it may be removed for a recommendation to council.

16:42:58 17 All of those in favor of that motion?

16:43:01 18 All those opposed?

16:43:03 19 THE MODERATOR: The motion carries.

16:43:04 20 CHAIRMAN LeBLANC: The motion carries.

16:43:06 21 That concludes the first meeting on the

16:43:09 22 Confederate monuments. We're going to take a ten-minute

16:43:12 23 break and then proceed with our regular agenda.

16:43:17 24 (4:43 p.m., proceedings recessed.)

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